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1875. THE 1875.

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England's Young Men.

Kate Field says in her "Republican Notes on England" in the St. Louis *Republican*: "Let a member of Parliament advertise for a secretary, and he will be astonished, while you, as an American, are shocked at the overwhelming number of applications from university men all eager for a position in which there is rarely advancement, and which seldom yield more than £200 a year. Sometimes these young men are better fitted for Parliament than the men they serve. I know of two instances in which this is most assuredly the case, the great difference being purely that of wealth. While the employers are gladly welcomed in society, the employed are barely tolerated. It makes my heart ache to think of the scores—aye, hundreds of clever young men thus kept down by fate, and I indorse a remark made by Horace Greely when advocating the necessity of practical education: 'If I must take my choice between an education or a trade, I should select the latter.' Here are men—gentlemen versed in Greek and Latin, ready at a class poem, with the luxurious tastes born of culture, without the least practical knowledge of the world, without the faintest conception of how to make a living. Often good politicians, they would serve their country with distinction were the Commons open to paid members. As it is they exist in the obscurity of cheap lodgings, varying secretaryship, with occasional reviews and newspaper articles, or are found in the diggings of Ballarat or California, eager to drive an engine or an omnibus. 'If you can find me a profitable street crossing to sweep in Broadway, pray let me know,' were the farewell words of an exceedingly clever young man as he bade me farewell. Of course these many men, and the many more on small salaries in the civil service, cannot marry unless they marry money, and money will not marry them. They, the best material that England affords, are never utilized. They settle down into misanthropes or selfish club and dinner men, and society is made worse rather than better by their existence."

"Don't Wake My Mother."

Among the passengers by the overland emigrant train from the East, which arrived yesterday, was a Mrs. W. S. Crediford, an aged lady from Alfred, Maine. Poor, feble and alone, she left her home to cross the continent on an emigrant train, to see her children residing in this State. Two grown daughters awaited her at San Jose, and her son had gone up the road to meet her. He found her worn out with the fatigues of the protracted journey in a comfortless emigrant car, and very weak. About six o'clock in the evening she reclined her head on her son's shoulder and fell asleep there. Just after the train left San Leandro, a gentleman, who had got on the train at that place, noticing something peculiar in the attitude and appearance of the old lady, approached her son and inquired, "What is the matter with that lady?" "Hush!" replied the young man, "don't wake my mother." "No fear," said the gentleman, "she will never wake again in this world." He was right. Quietly leaning on the breast of her son, the poor old lady had yielded to fatigue and peacefully fallen into a slumber from which she passed into that deep sleep that knows neither waking nor weariness. The emigrants composed her limbs to rest, and brought the body to this city for the bereaved children.—*San Francisco Chronicle, November 11.*

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Since the convening of Congress one year ago, the nation has undergone a

PROSTRATION IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

Such as has not been witnessed with us for many years. Speculation as to the causes for this prostration might be indulged in without profit, because as many theories would be advanced as there would be independent writers among those who expressed their own views without borrowing upon the subject. Without indulging in theories as to the cause of this prostration, therefore, I will call your attention only to the fact, and to some plain questions as to which it would seem there should be no disagreement. During this prostration two essential elements of prosperity have been most abundant—labor and capital. Both have been largely unemployed. Where security has been undoubted, capital has been attainable at very moderate rates; where labor has been wanted, it has been found in abundance at cheap rates, compared with what of the necessaries and comforts of life could be purchased with the wages demanded. Two great elements of prosperity, therefore, have not been denied us; a third might be added: our soil, unequalled within the limits of any contiguous territory under one nation for its variety of produce to feed and clothe a people, and in the amount of surplus to spare to feed less favored people. Therefore, with these facts in view, it seems that wise statesmanship at this session of Congress would dictate legislation ignoring the past, directing in the proper channel these great elements of prosperity to any people.

DEBT.

Debt abroad is the only element that can, with always a sound currency, enter into our affairs to cause any continued depression on the industries and prosperity of our people. A great conflict for national existence, made necessary, for temporary purposes, the rising of large sums of money from whatever source attainable. It seemed necessary in the wisdom of Congress,—and I do not doubt their wisdom in the premises, regarding the necessity of the times,—to devise a system of national currency, which, it proved to be impossible to keep on a par with the recognized currency of the civilized world. This begot a spirit of speculation and extravagance and luxury not required for the happiness or prosperity of a people, and involving both directly and indirectly foreign indebtedness, the currency being of fluctuating value, and therefore unsafe to hold for legitmate transaction requiring money, because a subject of speculation in it-self. These two causes [illegible]

[illegible]

WASHINGTON

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1874.

Secretary Robeson's Report.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows a very flattering condition of that arm of the service. The four millions appropriated last session, in view of the probability of a war with Spain, has been put to excellent use. All the vessels of the navy are in excellent condition. The Secretary says that he has sixteen iron clads in condition for active operations on twenty-four hours' notice.

Decline in Customs Receipts.

The continued falling off of the customs receipts is becoming a matter of concern at the Treasury Department. The diminution of the receipts, though indicating an increased dependence upon home manufacturers (and hence a subject of gratification), taken in view of the revenue derived from that service, gives rise to apprehensions of prospective embarrassment. The receipts from internal taxes, however, keep up to their average, and the payment of the semi-annual bank tax during this month will largely add to the amount.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1874.

The Tariff.

There is no unfinished business of importance before the committee. The bill relating to duties on imports, which passed the House and was amended in the Senate, and upon which one conference failed to agree, might be called up on motion to agree to another conference, which was asked last session. It is the opinion of members of the committee that the bill will be allowed to expire, as the elements which led to its defeat (particularly the hop interest of the West, which is opposed to a reduction of the tariff on that article) will frustrate its passage. As it is not at all probable that a new bill will be introduced, it is the belief of members of the committee that the tariff question will be at rest for the remainder of this Congress, at least.

What Congress Will Do.

From conversation with a large number of Senators and Representatives, the inference is that scarcely anything can be accomplished at this session beyond the passage of the appropriation bills. It is not thought that much will come of the attempt to pass the bills to make States of New Mexico and Colorado. Considerable time will be occupied over the affairs of Louisiana and Arkansas.

General Meigs to go Abroad.

It is again stated that General Meigs will go abroad on a tour of inspection of the Quartermasters' Departments in Europe, acting under orders from the Adjutant General's office. It is understood that General Ingalls will act in his stead during his absence.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7, 1874.

Comments on the Message.

The recommendations in the President's message have given rise to a variety of opinions amongst Senators and Representatives, its character being more positive than customary in such a document. The comments are equally emphatic. The hard money men approve the suggestion for a return to specie payment, but many do not like the free banking suggestions. Messrs. Kelley and Butler and their followers say that they will oppose the views of the President. The Representatives of the districts in which distilling is an important industry are against an increase in the tax on whisky, and indeed there is almost an unanimous feeling against any increase of taxation whatever. An influential Senator expressed the opinion to-night that the recommendations of the President's message are of such grave importance that it will be impossible to even consider, much less to act upon, them.

Amendment to the Bankrupt Law.

An important amendment to the Bankrupt law will be offered at the earliest opportunity, as follows: "If any person liable to examination is not within the judicial district wherein the proceedings in bankruptcy are pending, he may be examined before any Register of the District Court for the judicial district in which he may be found, in the same manner as if such proceedings were pending in such district, and the evidence so taken shall be returned by the Register to the Clerk of the District Court wherein the proceedings are pending, to be filed therein."

The Appropriation Bills.

Six of the large annual appropriation bills were reported to-day and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1874.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Secretary of War states that his report will show that the actual expenditures of the War Department, for the year ending June 30th, 1873, including river and harbor improvements, were $46,325,307 31; and for the same time for the last fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1874, $42,326,314 71, showing a reduction of $3,998,992 60. The report will also contain the following recommendations: Monthly additions to be allowed to the pay of those officers acting as Assistant Quartermasters; renewal of recommendations for the purchase of sites of posts in Texas, in accordance with the report previously made to Congress; system of mileage and payment of officers and employees traveling on duty, to be restored in lieu of actual expenses, as now allowed under the law of last year; private soldiers to be permitted to compete for the position of Commissary Sergants, as well as non-commissioned; the exemption of subsistence stores from the operation of the law requiring the proceeds of sales of public property to be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous, and at the expiration of each fiscal year the law to be so changed that appropriations for subsistence stores can be made available prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which they are appropriated; that provision be made for the publication of five hundred thousand additional copies of the Medical and Surgical History of the War.

Attention is called to the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers for an additional appropriation for ammunition for target firing. It is recommended that a much larger appropriation than has heretofore been made should be made annually for the manufacture of arms. An increased appropriation is desired for arming and equipping the militia. Steps are to be taken to relieve various States from indebtedness for arms charged to them during the rebellion. The sale of various arsenals, such as Allegheny, Columbus, Detroit, Pikesville, Watertown and Washington, is recommended. The Springfield armory, Frankfort arsenal and a few others are recommended to be retained, the proceeds of those sold to be applied to the erection of one grand arsenal for manufacturing purposes, to be established near New York. The proceeds of the sales of those named would be amply sufficient for that purpose, and there is no necessity for their retention.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT.

The Attorney General's annual report shows that there were judgments during the fiscal year, in civil suits, in favor of the United States, of $2,021,704. The amount actually realized was $867,192. Of criminal cases, 6,018 were terminated, including 2,623 convictions, of which 102 out of 966 were under the enforcement acts. The total of suits to which the United States were not a party is 19,194, of which 11,490 terminated in judgments, being to the amount of $10,508,624. The expenses of marshals, commissioners, etc., for the year were $2,669,730, or $361,138 less than the previous year. The amount awarded by the Court of Claims is $2,418,804, against total claims of $4,054,366. The Attorney General recommends that United States District Courts be given authority to issue subpoenas directing the attendance of witnesses before the Court of Claims, and that the latter be given power to punish for contempt any failure to obey; that heads of departments be given authority for the use in court of rebel records in possession of the Government; that the police force of the District of Columbia be increased; that all district attorneys and marshals be paid by salary only, fees being abolished; that a penitentiary be erected in the District of Columbia for the confinement of convicts, instead of that at Albany; that an uniform mode be provided for the selection of jurors for United States Courts, and the enactment of a law regulating the fees and costs of clerks, marshals and attorneys of United States Courts.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, in his annual report, recommends the rearmament of the navy with breech-loading rifled cannons, which can be done at a very small cost in view of the reduced number of ships and of guns required. The present types of foreign armed cruising ships carry four and one-half to six inches of armor, and at present we have no guns, except the fifteen inch in the monitors, which will seriously injure the lightest of these armored vessels. Substitute a seven or eight-inch rifle for the eleven-inch smooth-bore, which even our smallest ships carry, and few of them would come off without great damage. The Chief of Ordnance says the recent experiments on the conversion of smooth-bore to rifled cannon developed no unexpected results, and he does not deem it possible to convert a cast-iron smooth-bore into an efficient rifle by any system of rifling.

CASUALTIES.

Locomotive Explosion—Fireman Killed.

COLUMBUS, December 5.—The locomotive "Leonard Case," on the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad, while at Delaware to-day, exploded, badly scalding Wm. Hutchins, the engineer, and instantly killing his son, who was acting as fireman.

KARNS CITY.

ARREST OF THE ALLEGED INCENDIARY.

The Citizens Lead Him Through Town by a Rope.

ATTEMPT TO HANG HIM FOILED BY OFFICERS OF THE LAW.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
PARKER'S LANDING, PA., December 5, 1874.

The Hebrew, Graffowitch, in whose building the fire at Karns City yesterday originated, fled from town while the conflagration was in progress and was nowhere to be found. It was this fact, coupled with rumors of previous suspicious conduct on his part, which led to his being suspected of being the incendiary. To-day Graffowitch returned to Karns City and appeared on the streets. He was at once seized by an indignant mob of several hundred citizens, who fastened a rope around his neck and, by it, led him through the town. It was their deliberate purpose to hang him after they had made a sufficient exhibition of him to warn all persons of the determination of the people to be rid of incendiaries. While the procession was moving through the streets, however, the officers of the law came to the clothier's rescue. They demanded his body at the hands of his too-hasty executioners, that he might have the benefit of a trial by a legal jury. The citizens, after due reflection, concluded to heed the demand of the law, and somewhat reluctantly surrendered their prisoner, who was subsequently bound over for trial and duly committed. The feeling against the accused may be proved to be wholly unfounded in fact, but it is unquestionably very bitter and general at present.

FOREIGN.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

France.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON'S MESSAGE.

PARIS, December 3.—The message of President MacMahon was delivered to the Assembly this afternoon. The President says order has been maintained throughout the country. The relations with foreign governments are on an excellent footing. France has snown a firm determination to respect treaties, and has gained the increased confidence of her neighbors. No foreign power now doubts her desire to maintain pacific relations with all nations. The financial position of the country has sensibly improved. At home, thanks to a good harvest, agricultural production nas reached an unprecedented figure. The export trade has never been so considerable as during the last four months. Everything now favors the expectation that these most satisfactory results will be at least equalled in 1876. The President insists strongly on the necessity of definite legislation with regard to the constitutional powers, and continues as follows: "Incessantly agitated by a propaganda of the most pernicious doctrines, the country asks you to guarantee, by measures of wise foresight, the regular action of the public powers during the period of stability which you promised France. You will shortly examine these grave questions, and an understanding I hope will be arrived at. I shall not decline any share of the responsibility, nor will the intervention of my government be wanting. I wish to state how I understand my duties toward the Assembly and the country. I did not accept power to serve the aspirations of any party; I only pursue the work of social defense and national restoration. It is my ardent desire to have the support of men of good will—those whose personal preferences bow before the present necessities of the sacred cause of the country. I claim their support in the name of France, whose welfare and greatness I have alone in view. Nothing will discourage me in the accomplishment of the task. It is my duty not to desert the post in which you have placed me, to occupy it up to the last day with unshaken firmness and scrupulous respect for law."

Germany.

THE REICHSTAG—THE LEGATION AT THE VATICAN—NO PEACE WITH ROME ON ANY TERMS.

BERLIN, December 5.—The Reichstag was to-day engaged in a discussion upon the estimates of the Foreign Office. The Ultramontane deputy Windhorst spoke at length. He assailed the Government for suppressing the legation at the Vatican, and declared that such action would not estrange German Catholics from the Pope.

Bismarck said that, upon reading the report of the last debate in the Chamber, he discovered that he had expressed conciliatory sentiments which he must now withdraw, because he did not desire to expose himself to the misrepresentation that the imperial Government sought peace with Rome upon any terms. Germany recognizes the Pope as the head of the Catholic Church, but required no legation at the Vatican. If negotiations with the Pope are necessary, they can be conducted through the Ambassador to Italy. So long as the Pope urges the Catholic clergy to break the laws of the States in which they live, diplomatic relations between himself and Germany were useless. The Vatican desired victory for France in the late war; that could be proved. In conclusion, Bismarck said he would meet Windhorst in a discussion on this subject again in the Prussian Diet.

BERLIN, December 6.—Prince Bismarck, in the course of his reply to Herr Windhorst, in the Reichstag, said: "I am in possession of conclusive evidence that the Œcumenical Council was cut short on account of the Franco-German war. The Council's votes would have been very different had the French been victorious. I know from the very best sources that Napoleon was dragged into the war, very much against his will, by Jesuitical influences. He strove hard to resist these influences. At the eleventh hour he determined on peace, and kept his resolution half an hour. Ultimately he was overpowered by persons representing the Vatican."

COLUMBUS.

SENATE.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 4.—In the Senate a bill was introduced providing that suits on accounts may be brought before Justices of the Peace in townships of either the plaintiff or defendant, providing that both parties reside in the same county.

A bill was introduced authorizing the Supreme Judges to divide the State into five districts, one for each Judge.

HOUSE.

In the House this morning bills were introduced to elect school boards on the first Monday of April. To divide the State in school districts of not more than three counties each, and for the appointment of District Examiners with power to issue teachers' certificates for five years: to reduce the fees of county and township officers about thirty-three per cent.: to prohibit the shooting of quail between February 1 and October 13; to establish township, agricultural and statistical libraries. A special committee was appointed to investigate the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, under Doctor Jenner's management.

Bills were introduced to authorize County Commissioners to pay judges and clerks of election not exceeding three dollars per day; to take from village Councils the right to prohibit tippling houses. A resolution providing for amending the Constitution, allowing woman suffrage, was laid on the table to print.

SENATE.

COLUMBUS, December 5.—In the Senate this morning, bills were introduced to provide for the better collection of special assessments on property; also an amendment to the building and loan association law, so as to limit and restrict these associations from taking more than ten per cent. per annum in the aggregate on sums actually loaned to members, and to limit shares to $100.

HOUSE.

In the House, bills were introduced to provide for the publication of the annual financial exhibit of counties, in two newspapers of different politics in each county; to punish persons playing three-card monte and other confidence games.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Safe-Burglary Near Steubenville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
STEUBENVILLE, O., December 5, 1874.

At an early hour this morning the office of the Mingo Iron Works Company, at Mingo Junction, three miles west of here, was entered by burglars, who cut a hole in the safe with a chisel and sledge and put in a heavy charge of powder or nitro glycerine, which exploded with terrific force. The large safe door, weighing about six hundred pounds, was hurled through the front door of the office, alighting about forty feet distant. The windows were all blown out and the heavy walls of the building so badly damaged as to render them useless. After the explosion the burglars returned and carried off about one hundred and fifty dollars in money, four watches worth two hundred dollars, and some sixteen thousand dollars in notes. The latter have since been found on the river bank. This being pay day at the works, the burglars probably expected to find a large amount of money in the safe. The total loss is about two thousand five hundred dollars. There is no clue to the burglars.

PRESBYTERIAN UNITY.

Basis of the Confederation—A Hearty Ratification.

The movement to secure a union of the various Presbyterian denominations, under a general system of co-operation, has been discussed at length in these columns, and a synopsis has already been published of the proceedings of the meeting held in New York last week in furtherance of the object.

THE DELEGATES.

There were present at the meeting delegates from denominations that hold to the Presbyterian form of church government as follows: From regular Presbyterian churches—The Rev. Drs. William M. Paxton and Howard Crosby, of New York, James McCosh and William J. Robert, of New Jersey, William P. Bird and Thomas H. Robinson, of Pennsylvania, and Elders Charles A. Drake, of Washington, and William F. Lee, of New York. The Reformed Presbytery were represent by the Rev. Dr. David Steele, of Philadelphia, and Elder Alexander Woods, of New York. From the United Presbyterians came the Rev. Drs. D. R. Kerr, Alexander Young, J. B. Dale and J. C. Cooper, all of Pennsylvania. The Welsh Calvinists sent the Rev. Drs. William Roberts and M. A. Ellis, also from Pennsylvania. The Reformed Church in America was represented by the Rev. Drs. M. D. Hutton, A. P. Van Glesen and Philip Potts, and Elder John W. Feram, all of New York.

The following clergymen were the rest of the conferring body:—The Rev. Drs. John Hall, E. P. Rogers, Henry M. Field, A. D. Ganse, H. L. Grandlehard, S. D. Matthews and M. Wylie, Elder A. E. Juillerot and Professor E. H. Gillette, of New York.

President McCosh, of Princeton College, was the leading spirit of the meeting, and its most forcible speaker. He argued that the thirty-six sects which hold, under various names, to Presbyterian principles ought to be so far united as to be able to act together in a general way. Thus connected, Presbyterianism would have a power which it has never known.

The Rev. Dr. Prime, who had done much of the correspondence on the subject, reported a hearty approval of the scheme in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and many of the European continental countries.

A committee, with Dr. McCosh as Chairman, was appointed to compose a series of resolutions expressive of the basis upon which American Presbyterians would be willing to enter the confederation. While the committee was at work the question of a name was discussed. "Pan-Presbyterianism" had been used by many of the clergymen to designate the movement; but it was at length rejected as inappropriate, and "The Confederation of the Reformed Churches holding to the Presbyterian system" was adopted. Soon after this matter had been settled, the Committee on Resolutions reported.

THE BASIS OF CONFEDERATION.

The resolutions were separately read, discussed, amended, and at length adopted as follows:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of the churches represented at this meeting, it is desirable to form a confederation of the Reformed churches holding to the Presbyterian system, in order to manifest the substantial unity of these churches, and to combine them in the accomplishment of the great work committed to them by Christ, the Head of the Church.

2. While furnishing to the Presbyterian churches a means of entering into closer fellowship with one another, this confederation is not meant to separate them in any way from other churches which hold by Christ the head, with which churches it will always be ready to co-operate.

3. This confederation does not propose to form or adopt a new confession of faith, but will require every church proposing to join it to submit its creed, and will admit only the churches whose creed is in conformity with the confessions of the Reformed churches.

4. It shall not interfere with the internal order and discipline of any church.

5. It shall hold from time to time a General Council, composed of representatives of all the churches of the confederation.

6. The representatives shall always consist of an equal number of ministers and chiefs.

7. The General Council shall take up only such subjects as have been committed to the church by her great Head.

8. The General Council shall seek to guide public sentiment aright in various countries.

9. The decisions come to by the Council shall be laid before the several churches, and be entitled to receive from them a respectful consideration. It will labor to promote the unity of the churches.

10. It will ever rejoice to support struggling churches amid infidel and anti-Christian opposition.

11. It will defend by all lawful means those in any country who are persecuted for conscience sake.

12. It will encourage the churches to combined effort to provide for the religious wants of great cities and other fields.

12. It will press the imperative duty of securing the adequate instruction of the young in the Scriptures.

14. It will make every effort to preserve the Sabbath as a divine institution.

Other provisions relate to the proposed methods of advice to be adopted by the Confederation.

A HEARTY RATIFICATION MEETING.

A meeting was subsequently held to bring the movement before the public, and the audience was one of the largest ever assembled in church meeting. Rev. Dr. John Hall presided, and he and Dr. McCosh delivered addresses.

The Rev. D. R. Kerr, D.D., editor of the *United Presbyterian*, of this city, also addressed the assemblage. He said that the confederation commended itself to his head and to his heart. He believed in the ultimate organic union of the Church of Christ. He approved the mooted scheme as a step towards that final result.

Dr. Adams, Dr. Potts and others followed in the same strain, and the approval of the sentiments was hearty in the extreme.

Dr. Hall predicted in conclusion that the confederation would be a fact in 1876.

LIST OF PATENTS

Issued from the United States Patent Office to Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending December 4, 1874, furnished to the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., Counselors-at-law and Solicitors for American and foreign patents, No. 513 Seventh street, Washington D. C.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Machines for Grinding Colters—John Pedder, Pittsburgh, and George Abel, Chartiers township, Allegheny county. Filed April 20, 1874.

Manufacture of Glass Lamp-Pedestals—John Bryce, Pittsburgh. Filed November 11, 1874.

Bale-Ties—Hugh G. Hutchinson, Pittsburgh, assignor of five-eights his right of W. W. Speer, same place. Filed November 7, 1874.

Blanks, for Saws—George Abel, Chartiers township, Allegheny county, and J. Pedder, Pittsburgh. Filed April 24, 1874.

Furnace Attachments for Supplying Air to the Fire-box—Chas. Gearing, Pittsburgh, assignor of one-fourth his right to Alex. McBane, Wm. G. Johnston, Jared M. Brush, J. B. Anjer, John B. Livingston and E. Westervelt, same place. Filed November 7, 1874.

Slide Valves—Charles Rogers, Allegheny. Filed September 19, 1874.

Harrows—Geo. Palmer, Littlestown. Filed January 29, 1874.

Gas Retorts—William H. Luce, Erie. Filed September 16, 1874.

Gun Barrels—John L. Kerr, Allegheny, assignor of one-half his right to W. D. Squires, Sioux City, Iowa. Filed March 3, 1874.

Whiffletree Tug Fasteners—James L. Graff, Petrolia. Filed January 23, 1874.

Steak Tenderers—D. J. Shults, Mount Union. Filed September 26, 1874.

Book Clamps—John W. Beatty, South Oil City. Filed September 12, 1874.

OHIO.

Lubricators—Fred. I. Palmer, Youngstown, assignor of one-third his right to Thos. Peat and Samuel Fry, same place. Filed September 24, 1874.

Harvester Rakes—Jacob Miller, Canton. Filed August 31, 1874.

Wheels for Vehicles—Johnston V. Woolsey, Sandusky. Filed October 3, 1874.

Tram-Staffs for Turning Millstones.—Sidwell Taylor, Waynesville. Filed Septemmber 30, 1874.

Vote-Counting Aparatus.—Boner and John A. Fleming, Eaton. Filed October 12, 1874.

Driers.—S. R. Megown, Youngstown. Filed April 18, 1874.

Clamps for Telegraph-wires.—Geo. A. Beach, Toledo. Filed August 12, 1874.

Sewing-Machines.—Charles H. Mason, Sandusky, assignor of one-half his right to Lawrence Cable. Filed August 28, 1874.

Rubber Valves for Pumps.—G. M. Weinman, Columbus. Filed June 11, 1874.

Hydrants.—Jno. V. Weitz, Cleveland. Filed August 18, 1874.

Cultivators — Thomas H. Garland, West Cleveland. Filed September 21, 1874.

Fastening the Metallic Linings in Wooden Pumps—M. Woodhull, Dayton. Filed October 14, 1874.

Railroad Car Stoves—Ransom F. Rankin, Columbus. Filed April 22, 1874.

Car Couplings—Francis Grainger Morgan, assignor of two-thirds his right to George R. Webster and John E. Jeffords. Filed September 26, 1874.

Washing Machines—R. H. Boyd, Londonderry. Filed September 5, 1874.

Seeding Machines—James A. Marlay and William Weusthoff, Dayton, assignors to the Farmers' Friend Manufacturing company, same place. Filed September 7, 1874.

Oscillating Pumps—J. Smith, Pricetown. Filed September 24, 1874.

There appeared last week in the obituary column of the Philadelphia *Ledger* notices of the deaths of fourteen persons—seven men and seven women—who had lived to or beyond the advanced age of eighty years, to wit: Jacob Stadelman, aged 80; James McCafferty, 81; Elizabeth Hammersley, 81; Philip Tiers, 83; Elizabeth McMenamin, 83; Thomas Gorman, 84; Margaret Steinberger, 84; Martha A. Coursault, 85; Ann Ritchie, 85; Christopher J. Jungkurth, 85; Sarah M. Stagg, 85; Christiana Allasdice, 85; Peter Keegan, 90, and Cornelius Conrad, 92.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1874.

THE report of the Secretary of War shows a reduction of nearly four million dollars in army expenses for the fiscal year just closed. This is a good showing so far as Governmental finances are concerned, and the country seems to have got along very well with her reduced army.

DOWN in Kentucky, two or three days ago, a trio of colored men who were merely suspected of having set fire to an illicit distillery, were incontinently hung by the infuriated white populace. Attempts to cut off the sources of Democratic inspiration cannot be practised in that State with impunity.

THE total duties on imports at Philadelphia, last month, aggregated $485,344 42, being $28,271 31 in excess of those for the same period last year. The increase for the year is $804,791 31 over that of 1873, a notable augmentation, especially when compared with other leading ports. Having is better than halloaing.

THE Secretary of the Kansas Board of Agriculture reports to Governor OSBORNE that there are large numbers of destitute people in twenty-six counties of that State, lying west of the sixth principal meridian. The population of these counties is 66,104, and the number of destitute among this population is given at 12,089, or about one in every five.

FERNANDO WOOD has commenced his campaign for the Speakership by inviting the Democratic and Conservative Congressmen to a grand banquet to-night, in congratulation, as his card sets forth, for the recent elections. The card has this legend on the top: "Justice is slow, but sure." Not always, Mr. WOOD. The statute of limitations sometimes effectually blocks the way.

THE New York *World* confesses that the Democratic party has no positive or affirmative policy. It has a negative policy. It knows what it is *not* in favor of; but it does not know, and therefore cannot tell, what it *is* in favor of. It can tear down, but it cannot build up; and when it confronts the difficulty in the next Congress, of framing a policy for the Government, it will find itself not equal to the task.

THE gross November earnings of seventeen of the principal railroads of the country, as reported by the New York *Bulletin* of Monday, show quite favorable results generally, being, with few exceptions, in excess of the earnings for the corresponding month last year. The total amount of these earnings is $3,862,943, against $3,658,032 for November, 1873, an increase of $204,911, or nearly six per cent. A comparative statement of the net earnings for the same period would undoubtedly show a still more favorable result.

THE New York papers note continued signs of business improvement. Trade is moderately active; exports, notwithstanding the difficulties of transportation, are going forward with considerable zest; more freight is offering, grain is in process of movement to Europe, the commission houses are doing a fair trade, the principal retailers note a marked increase in their sales, and in nearly all the departments of commerce similar gratifying evidences of reviving activity are reported to exist. There is a general expression of confidence that after the 1st of January next business generally will be conducted on a much more stable and profitable basis.

THE exports of specie from New York, last week, amounted to $2,400,000, and the daily export now runs from $400,000 to $500,000. This is about four times as much gold as the country is producing; and yet the President would drive it into the ruinous policy of attempting specie payments on the paper now in circulation! It seems to us the very sublimation of nonsense to talk of maintaining specie payments in a country situated as ours now is. It may tickle the ears of those theorists who profess to have studied Political Economy; but it is not statesmanlike, and is the veriest mockery of those who are driven to the verge of starvation by the enforced idleness begotten of the attempt to force the country into a false financial position.

REPLIES TO THE GLADSTONE REMONSTRANCE.

According to a London letter of November 14, Mr. GLADSTONE's pamphlet on the Vatican decrees was then selling at the average rate of three thousand copies a day. As a pamphlet of which five hundred copies are sold is commonly thought a noteworthy success, the extraordinary demand for the ex-Premier's publication is a sufficient indication of the interest taken in the subject. In fact, intelligent Englishmen regard it as a matter of very direct and urgent practical importance, and if Americans do not look upon it in the same light, the reason of their indifference must be sought for either in defective knowledge, or in their failure heretofore to make it a subject of reflection. In saying this we do not wish to be considered as alarmists, and still less do we desire to stimulate religious bigotry or to stir the fires of sectarian animosity and distrust. On the contrary, we believe now, as we have long believed, that Catholic laymen are not less practically interested than Protestants in a full comprehension of the import of the Vatican decrees and of the obligations incurred by their acceptance. Whether Protestants or Catholic laymen, we are all citizens of the free republic, desirous of being thought sincerely attached to liberal institutions and resolved to maintain them. The best safeguard against future misapprehensions and suspicions among citizens of antagonistic religious sects, seems to be as complete a knowledge as possible of what each sect really believes. Certainly it is better for all that theoretical questions of an entangling or compromising character should be cleared up, if that be feasible, before the emergence of those practical controversies which may be involved in them. Peradventure the practical controversies may even thus be arrested or smothered in their source. Besides, political Romanism is notoriously modified in actual working by the presence or contiguity of a vigorous Protestantism, and such a result appears equally probable and desirable in reference to the effect of the Vatican decrees.

On the whole subject curious light is shed from a comparison of some of the various answers which in England and in the United States have been called forth by Mr. GLADSTONE's pamphlet. Archbishop MANNING, as all readers know, lost no time in stepping forth to vindicate simultaneously the infallibility of the Pope and the loyalty of British Catholics. In a letter to the *Times* newspaper Dr. MANNING declared: First, "That the Vatican decrees have in no jot or tittle changed either the obligations or the conditions of civil allegiance, and second, that the civil allegiance of Catholics is as undevided as that of all Christians and of all men who recognize a Divine or natural moral law."

This statement was by itself as clear and explicit as such a statement could be made. But, unhappily for its full effect, the same number of the *Times* in which it appeared contained an address delivered by the Archbishop before the Academia, an institution founded for the defence of Catholic Christianity. In this address Dr. MANNING said: "The other questions to which he invited their most serious consideration were the Infallibility of the Holy Father, his right to temporal as well as spiritual authority, and, amid all the conflicting opinions of the world, *the ultimate necessity of acknowledging civil allegiance to him as their only safety.* * * * They must have no half-hearted measures; they must have no half-fearful, half-hearted assertions of the Sovereign Pontiff's claims; they must not fear to declare to England, and to the world through the free press of England, the Sovereign Pontiff's claim to Infallibility, his right to temporal power, and *the duty of the nations of the earth to return to their allegiance to him.*"

Whatever might be effected by the aid of ingenious comment in reconciling these two extracts it is certain that to plain understandings, to unsophisticated common sense they seem flatly contradictory of each other, and they have presented the Archbishop of Westminister in a rather unfavorable light as the champion of his church.

Monsigneur CAPEL has also published a long and very elaborate reply to Mr. GLADSTONE, in which he displays great subtlety [and] considerable literature. The effect of [his argu]ment has, however, probably been [...] by a letter in which he asserts [...]on that "the ecclesias[...] the civil, and de[...]power as well

as its own." In fact, he concedes all that the ex-Premier maintained.

The great Roman Catholic organ in the British press, the *Tablet*, has contained many leading articles and essays in refutation of the GLADSTONE tract, but the *Tablet* really admits the main charge it contains.

"What then, at last," demands the *Tablet*, "is the difference between Mr. Gladstone and the Catholics? Both parties admit that every utterance of human law requires to be measured by some external standard before it rightly challenges obedience. The only difference is that with Catholics the external standard is the Church's voice, whereas with Mr. Gladstone it is individual conscience and reason."

Nothing written in the way of response to the memorable pamphlet appears to have produced more effect, or at least to have been read with greater interest, than two letters by two Roman Catholic noblemen, Lord ACTON and Lord CAMOYS. Lord ACTON meets the GLADSTONE "Remonstrance," not by denying its charges, but by affirming them, and by farther asserting that they might truly have been made stronger and heavier than they are, without, however, involving the practical consequences anticipated. He shows that the Pope has always claimed the right and power to excommunicate those who denied his authority to depose princes, and that the recognition of this right and power has always been and is now an article of faith with writers most esteemed at Rome. Lord ACTON, therefore, tells Mr. GLADSTONE that his indictment would be more just if it were more complete, and his lordship makes some contribution towards its completion by reminding the pamphleteer how one Pope famous in history has decided that it is no murder to kill excommunicated persons; how another Pope has pronounced the murder of a Protestant so good a deed as more than to compensate the murder of a Catholic; how still another Pope has declared that faith must not be kept with heretics, etc. All these facts were known to those who passed the bill of Catholic emancipation. Catholics were not believed liable to perversion through such old time doctrines, nor can it be supposed that the Syllabus carries greater weight with them. Few people live up to their creed, and they are held loyal to King and country by immediate influences and considerations which doctrinal abstractions cannot affect.

Lord CAMOYS, however, takes a different view. Indeed he fully concurs with Mr. GLADSTONE's opinion that loyalty to his government and acceptance of the new dogmas of Rome are irreconcilable. While it seems to him unlikely that the present Pope will adopt against Queen VICTORIA the course pursued by a former Pope against Queen ELIZABETH, he says "there is no telling what edict might be issued by the author of the Syllabus." And if such an edict were issued, Lord CAMOYS thinks, that with the decree of infallibility on their conscience the English Catholics of to-day would feel themselves much less free than Catholics of other times to disregard its injunctions.

We may add that each of these letters has called forth severe censure and denunciations from the newspaper organs of the Ultramontane party.

DOCTORS AND THE CLERGY.

Five or six months ago we called attention to a remarkable document or petition which had been recently put forth by certain students and graduates of Catholic colleges in Ireland. It was a lengthened and very strongly worded statement of the deficiencies of the course of instruction prescribed in the institutions referred to. It was declared that in those colleges no adequate provision was made for teaching those sciences for the cultivation and advancement of which the present age is distinguished and in which young men of culture are especially interested. There was something almost pathetic in the terms in which the signers of the paper deplored the meagre intellectual furniture with which the Catholic colleges of Ireland send forth their graduates to confront the world. In conclusion, they called on the ecclesiastical guardians of those schools to hearken to their complaints and remove the grounds of them; otherwise the complainants should feel bound to supply the discreditable defects of their education without regard to the spiritual or religious perils which render Protestant universities dreadful to the orthodox. We do not pretend to report the terms of the petition; its spirit and tenor are, we believe, not misrepresented in the foregoing statement. The paper undoubtedly expressed the views of a great many young Irish Catholic scholars, and seemed well adapted to impress the persons to whom it was addressed. Whether or no it did so, we are unable to say.

This noteworthy petition has been brought to mind by the account of a scene which lately took place at the opening of the medical department of the freshly founded Catholic or Ultramontane University in Dublin. When Dr. HEYDE stepped forward to deliver his introductory address, the students raised a loud hurrah (an Irish hurrah) in honor of the rival (non-sectarian) University of Dublin. And this shockingly unbecoming salutation did not end the heterodox demonstration. Presently an Hibernian BOB SAWYER cried out, "All who believe that the Catholic University is a humbug will say aye," whereupon a boisterous "aye" was bellowed by some hundreds of voices. In America, we need hardly say, a school thus regarded by its students would immediately die of inanition; but Irish Catholic students are subject to a public opinion as well as to an authority which suffices as yet to command external compliance.

Ireland, however, is not the only Roman Catholic country in which at present medical students are loudly rebellious against sacerdotal influence. M. CHAUFFARD, an eminent professor in the School of Medicine at Paris, being a decided Ultramontane Catholic, and having lately published a strong statement of his religious convictions, has not been allowed by the students to deliver his usual course of lectures. The school was opened on the 10th of November with a lecture by the Dean of the Faculty, M. WURTZ, which was vehemently applauded. When, next day, Dr. CHAUFFARD entered the great amphitheater crowded with students, he was received with hisses, cat-calls, whistling and other insults. All his attempts to speak were in vain, and the interposition of the Dean of the Faculty with rebukes, remonstrance, prayers and threats in turn, proved equally without effect. At length Mr. CHAUFFARD withdrew, surrounded by his colleagues and a portion of the students in sympathy with him, but it would seem that in leaving the place in his carriage he had a narrow escape from personal injury, between two and three thousand students shouting, "Down with CHAUFFARD, down with the priest!" The day after he made another attempt to begin his course of lectures, but it was as unsuccessful as the first. The students were more violent than on the first day, breaking windows and in other ways doing damage to the hall. To their cries they added that of "*A bas Dupanloup!*" the Bishop of Orleans. In consequence of these troubles the Government closed the School of Medicine for a month; which is an instructive illustration of the way they do things in Paris.

THE RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

The only practicable measure for resuming specie payments by the Government, so far presented, is the issue of $200,000,000 of five per cent. gold bonds, the sale of which would place the Government in possession of sufficient coin to enable it to maintain the redemption in coin of the $440,000,000 of its paper in circulation. Taking for granted that the bonds can be negotiated, and that the coin can be got, neither of which is probable, according to our judgment, and what will be the results?

The first result will be the addition of ten millions, annually, to the national burden, for interest on the bonds. As the present sources of revenue are inadequate to meet this addition, new taxes would have to be levied. The Free Trade and Hard Money men propose to put the needed taxes upon tea and coffee. These articles are consumed mainly by the poor, and the new tax would add just that much to the cost of living.

The second result would be the contraction of the currency to the extent of two hundred millions. Greenbacks to that amount would be funded in the bonds, and put out of circulation. The Government could not afford to keep the greenbacks out, as well as the bonds issued to redeem them, and their retirement is consequently a matter of course.

A contraction to this extent of the national currency would naturally bring with it a corresponding contraction of the national bank currency. The banks, compelled to redeem in coin, would presumably keep out no more paper than they would be able to float easily.

With this contraction going on all around would come a third result—the general contraction of values. Real estate would fall; labor would decline in price, and all values would adapt themselves to the changed value of the currency. *Debts*, however, would *not* shrink in volume. The debtor class would have to pay debts, contracted in the value of currency at the old basis, in currency on the new basis; and many who have heretofore bought houses and lots upon credit would have to pay more for the residue of debt due upon them than the houses and lots would sell for under the shrunken valuation. Tens of thousands of industrious men would thus find the labor of years utterly swept away from them.

A fourth result would follow to those who would be still left in possession of the real estate of the country. Nearly every city and county in the nation is enormously in debt, and their debts must be met by taxation. A shrinkage of values would thus be followed by an increase in the rate of taxation; for no shrinkage in values ever alters the volume of municipal indebtedness. With industry crippled and wages reduced, rents would have to fall; and thus we should have an increased rate of taxation as the corollary of decreased productiveness.

If any one wants to encounter these results, and thinks them desirable, he is welcome to go on and take part in the work of bringing them about; but those who do not regard such things as blessings, will hesitate about favoring them. The resumption of specie payments seems very easy to men who have nothing at stake, as well as those who import foreign goods and those who hold mortgages and bonds issued by the Nation, the State, the county, the city, or by corporations. To them, whatever contributes to reduce flexible values helps to increase the inflexible values of what they have invested in. But to those who are in debt, to those who live by their labor, and to those who have to bear the burdens of taxation, resumption does not seem half so easy or desirable. Our fancy is that the latter class is by far the most numerous. It is not the most noisy. It cannot employ Political Economists to lecture for them. But it can vote; and those who know what that means will do well to give it the most perfect heed.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What is the meaning of this regular succession of English lecturers on political economy, one following the other closely? First we had BONAMY PRICE; now we have WILLIAM E. FORSTER; and after him will come some one else. These men come here, ostensibly as travelers, visiting the country merely for their own gratification, and all that sort of stuff; but they manage, very deftly, to get frequent chances to deliver lectures, and to answer questions framed by friends to suit their purposes, and the burden of all they have to say is Hard Money and Free Trade.

Now, these men do not merely happen here, at this peculiar time, and their eagerness to unburden themselves of their Free Trade lectures is not the mere chance result of their visit. They have been *brought* here, and they are the missionaries of the Free Trade League. They try to cover all this up, and to force themselves on the attention of the American people as eminent Political Economists; but their visit here is the result of a purpose, and that purpose is to get up a Free Trade crusade, that shall end in making the United States dependent upon Great Britain for all the manufactured goods they consume.

To invite Mr. FORSTER to dinner at Washington city, to bring in prominent men to meet him there, and then to turn the occasion into an opportunity for preaching sermons in favor of Hard Money and Free Trade, is very cunning and shrewd, but is easily seen through. It *looks*, at first sight, like a spontaneous compliment to a distinguished foreigner, but a closer examination reveals it as part of a general purpose to manufacture a public sentiment that will further the interests of the New York importers who make up the Free Trade League.

We are very glad, therefore, that Mr. BLAINE spoke out like a man, on this occasion, and exploded the whole plot by exposing it. He said, most truly, that the Conservatives favored the Hard Money and Free Trade policy, but that the people were opposed to it. Mr. BLAINE proposes, for himself, to take his stand with the people, and so will all the politicians of the country who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Let Mr. FORSTER and Mr. PRICE, and the other employed lecturers of the Free Trade League, go on and entertain the Conservatives with their twaddle; the people will settle the matter all right, to suit themselves, and without consulting the political economists of England who cannot get over the old desire to make America tributary to and dependent upon Great Britain.

THE PUDDLERS' STRIKE.

The Eastern and Western papers, in giving an account of the puddlers' strike in this city, represent the number of strikers at *forty thousand!* This is a gross exaggeration. The number of puddling furnaces at the mills here is given at 800, in round numbers. Four men—two puddlers and two helpers—are employed at each furnace; so that the strike involves, for the present, only 3,200 men. As, however, the suspension of work at the puddling furnaces must, in the end, involve the suspension of all other work at the mills, and also of the miners employed to supply the mills with fuel, it is estimated that, should the strike be persisted in, it will result, before the winter is over, in depriving from 15,000 to 20,000 men of work. This is the outside limit. There are really but 3,000 men on strike.

The Chicago *Tribune*, we see, puts the number of those affected by the strike at 100,000, doubtless misled by the report of 40,000 men being on a strike. It will see by the figures we have given, how far it is out of its reckoning.

On the strike itself the *Tribune* has the following:

"We have no sympathy with corporations that cut down the wages of their laborers wantonly and for the sake of swelling their own profits. But the panic has stricken the iron trade more severely than all others, and of necessity in that State has reduced the demand for ore, and especially for coal. Iron that sold at $46 00 per ton before the panic is not in demand now at $30 00. This is, therefore, a clear case where labor must of necessity adapt itself to the demand. The puddlers and miners of Pennsylvania have decided otherwise. They insist on anti-panic wages or nothing, and, under the ill-advised authority of their unions, they have driven the employers to close their mills. They prefer to earn nothing and receive nothing through the winter to have steady employment at reduced wages. While it is true they bring this misery and destitution on themselves, the madness by which they have been ruled is none the less deplorable."

Cost of Metal in the Iron Centre.

The use of the iron ores of the nine foot coal seam continues to be most satisfactory. Last week Dunbar furnace was run entirely with these native ores without the admixture of any mill cinder or foreign ores whatever, and the result was a first class quality of "Red Short Iron," which has been the great desideratum with the furnaces in this region, inasmuch as the ores which produce it do away with the necessity of importing Lake Superior or other foreign ores. The furnace men here are of the opinion that they have now found just what they want, and that the best quality of iron can now be manufactured in this country at a price so far below what it costs to make it at any other point in the country, that the erection of one or two furnaces within four miles of Uniontown next summer is a foregone conclusion.

Calculations have been made by several gentlemen practically acquainted with all the details of making iron, and of four of these estimates now before us, none of them put the cost above $12 per ton, while one puts it as low as $10. It will be seen by the following estimate which allows the highest probable rate of labor and cost of raw material, that $12 per ton is a very safe basis at which to put the cost of a ton of metal:

Three tons ore at $2 per ton	$6 00
Seventy bushels coke at 3¼c per bushel	2 28
Three-fourths ton limestone at $1 per ton	75
Labor	2 50
Total cost of one ton of metal	$11 53

There are several furnace sites near Uniontown where the cost of coke and limestone would be considerably less than the above estimate. Were furnaces erected on these sites, the ore, the coke and the limestone could all be brought to the very spot without a second handling, and upon a tramway of sufficient down grade to obviate the necessity of much horse power. These facts and figures have already so strongly impressed themselves on the minds of a few of our enterprising men, that a company is likely to be organized during the winter which will commence the erection of a furnace as soon as the weather will permit next spring.—*Uniontown Genius of Liberty, November 26.*

The spirit of economy in dress which has animated the twelve million women of the United States during the past year, has resulted in decreased sales of calico alone to the amount of 121,000,000 yards—nearly equal to the entire annual product of all the mills of Massachusetts.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1874.

The House Financial Debate.

The debate on the currency question was precipitated upon the House to-day much sooner than was expected, but Judge Kelley's bill is now fairly launched upon the business of the Committee of the Whole. It will block all other business on the calendar so long as it remains in committee, unless unanimous consent can be obtained to pass to other business. That such consent can be obtained, is by no means probable. It will be pushed forward to a direct vote in the House. There has thus far been nothing positive to indicate any change on the part of those members who opposed inflation at the last session, but it was nevertheless noticeable to-day that, as Messrs. Kelley and Butler were speaking, there were consultations, apparently of approval, among gentlemen who hitherto opposed the 3-65 bond scheme. The other side has not yet been fairly heard, for the remarks of Messrs. Garfield, Dawes and Cox were very brief and were more in the nature of protests against Kelley's views than anything else. If the House goes into committee again to-morrow, Mr. Dawes is expected to make an elaborate speech in opposition to the bill and in favor of some measure which will tend to insure a more speedy return to specie payment.

Republican Caucus.

The Republican Sentors held a caucus to-day, which lasted three hours. It was determined that no changes should be made among the Republican members of the committees. The Democratic Senators had asked some changes among their membership, which were made. A discussion arose as to the line of policy proper to be pursued at this session. The discussion took a wide range, embracing those subjects which have been and are the main issues before the country.

Taxation and the Tariff.

As to the propriety of increasing taxation there seemed to be almost an unanimity in discountenancing the idea. It was, however, contended that it would be practicable by a partial readjustment of internal taxes, to add to the income of the Government and at the same time remove some of the more inconvenient items of taxation. As the items which could be struck from off the taxable list, the two cent stamp tax was mentioned. To effect those, the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, to put ten cents additional on whisky, was favorably mentioned. It was unanimously agreed that no reduction of taxation was practicable.

The Finances.

On the finances, the opinions expressed showed that there was as much difference among those present as at the last session, but there was a disposition shown to reconcile these differences, if possible, in order to present an united front in the Senate. If this were found possible, it was agreed that a financial bill would be presented in the Senate agreeable to all the elements of the party, and thereby avoid any necessity for extending the debate on that side. Some were sanguine that this would be accomplished. There was no discussion as to the details of any bill, the main object in view being to reach a point upon which all could agree.

Internal Improvements.

The general policy of Government aid to internal improvements was favored by a large number, but it was objected that aid could not be extended at this time, owing to the limited resources of the Government. It was stated that the water system of the West was so interwoven that to undertake the construction of any of the routes recommended by the Select Committee would necessitate action upon the whole, and as the estimates submitted by the engineers footed up one hundred and fifty millions, it would, in all probability, cost double that amount before they were completed. Such a burden, it was argued, the Government was at present in no condition to shoulder. In regard to aid to the Northern and Southern Pacific Railroads, a favorable feeling was expressed by several Senators, who stated that while the improvement of water routes would require the Government to pay all the costs, in the case of the railroads it would only be called upon to guarantee the interest on the bonds, for which it would be secured; but all such legislation was strongly deprecated by many influential Senators, and it is highly improbable that anything will be done for them.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9, 1874.

Rumors of Further Trouble in the South.

There has been much excitement exhibited to-night over rumors of trouble in Louisiana and Arkansas. It was alleged that dispatches had been received indicating a collision between the opposing factions in both States, but up to midnight they could not be traced to any reliable source. It was ascertained that a conference of some sort was being held at the house of one of the carpet-bag Senators, but it did not transpire that the deliberations were of any great importance. Pinchback, the claimant for the vacant seat in the Senate from Louisiana, is here, but has not been taken into the counsels of the white Republicans from that State, who are here in great force. Collector Casey had a convivial party till a late hour, in his rooms at Willard's, but no more serious business was transacted than the demolition of a few bottles of wine. Some of the Louisiana politicians went to the Department of Justice to-day and submitted telegrams and other papers to the Attorney General. He glanced at them and informed the party that he was no longer Commander of the Department and it was not worth while for him to examine them.

POSTAL REGULATIONS—PREPAYMENT OF COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1874.

The portion of the recent postoffice regulations for the prepayment of postage on newspapers and periodicals, relative to county papers, has been modified as follows: Newspapers, without regard to frequency of issue, one copy to each subscriber actually for the time being residing in the county where the same are printed, are entitled to pass free of postage through the mails; but the rate of postage on the same, excepting weeklies, when deposited in a letter-carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, shall be uniform at one cent each. Weeklies, when sent through the mails to, or deposited in a letter-carrier office in the county where printed, shall be weighed in bulk and be subject to postage of two cents per pound, to be prepaid at the mailing office by special adhesive stamps.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9, 1874.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

General Garfield and his committee have done the most effective work ever performed in the preparation of the appropriation bills. The principal ones have been reported, and the rest will follow before the House can reach them. The estimates of appropriations necessary for the ensuing fiscal year, as recommended by the heads of the several departments, make an appropriation of $310,030,769. Of this sum, $6,659,137 is for the pay of officers and members and employees of Congress, a saving of two millions as compared with the last fiscal year. This large reduction is attributable to the repeal of the salary "grab" act.

The Executive Department proper requires $78,400, a saving of about three thousand dollars. The Department of State, $1,638,765, a saving of over two millions.

The Treasury Department—$171,066,214, being $2,000,000 less.

The War Department—$52,558,040, a reduction of $8,000,000.

The Navy Department—$21,086,627, an increase of $800,000.

Interior Department—$42,758,053, an increase of $1,000,000.

Postoffice Department—$10,468,750, an increase of $3,000,000.

The Department of Justice—$4,100,280, an increase of $14,000.

The Department of Agriculture—$276,280, an increase of $3,000.

The difference between the estimates of last year and those of the present are in favor of a reduction of $9,167,967.

JAY COOKE & CO.

An Injunction Asked by Holders of Bonds of the Northern Pacific.

PHILADELPHIA, December 9.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day, application was made on behalf of persons residing in New York, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Canada, and owning stock of the Northern Pacific Railroad, for an injunction against the Trustees and committee of the creditors of Jay Cooke & Co., to restrain them from making any payment of dividends or proceeding with the distribution of the estate. The complaint made is, that the railroad company is insolvent and has refused to present any claims against the estate, and that the bankrupts are liable to the extent of $16,000,000 upon its bonds. The holders of the bonds desire to come in for their share, and therefore seek to enjoin the distribution until their claims are recognized.

Funeral of General James Pierce.

The funeral of General James Pierce took place last Friday, from his late residence at Mt. Hickory, Mercer county, and was attended by a large concourse of friends from all parts of Mercer county, and quite a number of prominent business men from this city. Among the pall bearers were Hon. William L. Scott, of Erie; Alex. Nimick, Esq., of this city; Dr. J. W. Irwin, of Sharon; Dr. Wm. Gibson, of Jamestown; Maj. J. W. Ormsby, of Mt. Hickory; Judge Wm. Maxwell, of Greenville, and John Phillips, Esq., of Neshannock. A correspondent writes as follows: "No calamity that could have befallen us would have been so felt as the death of the 'poor man's friend,' General James Pierce. A man of large heart and brain, he was ever ready to extend a helping hand to any worthy enterprise. Immensely wealthy, money was, with him, only a means of developing the means of his adopted State, or of assisting some worthy young man to make a name and fortune for himself. His charity was of the unostentatious kind. He did not believe in heralding his virtues to the world, but many a poor family has cause to bless his memory and bitterly regret his departure.

XLIII CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7, 1874.

The Senate was called to order promptly at noon by Vice President Wilson. Rev. Dr. Sunderland, the chaplain, in the opening prayer retured thanks to Divine Providence for the many blessing bestowed upon our nation, and said: "We acknowledge our chastisements and pray that we may be corrected through them. We beseech Thee to show Thy favor upon this people and help the Government in its great responsibility. Help the Congress of the United States! May the candle of the Lord light them through every difficulty." Vice President Wilson then took the chair.

Mr. ANTHONY, from Rhode Island, offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of the Senate to inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate had assembled and the Senate was ready to proceed to business. Agreed to.

He also submitted an order providing that the hour of meeting of the Senate should be daily at twelve o'clock, until otherwise ordered. Agreed to.

Mr. CONKLING offered a resolution providing for the appointment of two members of the Senate to join a committee on the part of the House of Representatives, to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House of Congress had assembled and were ready to receive any communication he may desire to make. Agreed to, and the CHAIR appointed Messrs. Conkling and Thurman the committee on the part of the Senate.

Mr. MORRELL, of Maine, from the Joint Select Committee appointed at the last session to frame a Government for the District of Columbia, submitted a written report, accompanied by sundry statutes. It provides for placing the District under a Board of three regents to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and who shall themselves appoint subordinate boards of healths, police, etc., the powers of all being minutely defined. The people are to elect three members of the Board of Education. All expenditures are to be controlled by Congress. Laid on the table and ordered printed.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate the certificates of election of George F. Edmunds, United States Senator from Vermont, and of William W. Eaton, of Connecticut, for the term commencing March 4, 1875.

The following bills were introduced and ordered to be printed and lie on the table until the appointment of standing committees:

By Mr. SHERMAN, A bill for the revision of the laws for the collection of customs duties. It provides for a Commission of seven persons, to be constituted as follows: One member of the Senate, to be designated by the President of the Senate; two members-elect of the next House of Representatives, to be designated by the Speaker of the present House; two officers in customs service, and two citizens familiar with the customs law, to be appointed by the President. The Commission is to terminate on the first Monday of December, 1875, and in the meantime shall report to Congress, through the Secretary of the Treasury, a revision of customs laws, together with such facts as they can elicit by examination and inquiry pertaining to the trade, industry, commerce and taxation of the country, with a view to making changes of rates and classification and modes of collecting duties, in order to promote the public interests. The Commissioners are also to report as to the relations of foreign trade to domestic industry and the mutual adjustment of customs and excise systems of taxation, with a view to securing the requisite revenue with the least inconvenience to the development of the resources of the country, and also as to the manner in which customs officers perform their duties. In order to conduct this investigation, the Commissioners are empowered to examine the books, papers and accounts of any customs officers and to administer oaths. The members of the Commission are to be allowed their necessary traveling expenses, but are not to receive any compensation.

By Mr. HITCHCOCK, A bill appropriating $100,000 for the purchase of food to be issued to the starving sufferers from the ravages of grasshoppers on the Western frontiers. The bill also directs the issue of disused army clothing to relieve the extreme wants of those destitute sufferers.

By Mr. SARGENT, A bill to protect persons of foreign birth against forcible restraint or involuntary servitude.

The Senate took a recess, and on reassembling, at one o'clock, Mr. WRIGHT gave notice that Wednesday next he would ask the Senate to proceed with the consideration of the bill to abolish the Western Judicial district of Arkansas, which he reported last session from the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. INGALLS submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Indian Affairs to inquire into the recent disturbances in the Indian Territory, and to report to the Senate what measures are necessary for the protection of life, liberty and property, and the preservation of law and order in that region, and whether the best interests of civilization do not demand the immediate establishment of courts of the United States in said Territory, as provided by the treaties of 1866. Laid on the table until the appointment of committees.

The Senate took another recess, and upon reassembling Mr. CONKLING, from the Committee appointed to wait upon the President, reported that that duty had been discharged and that the President would soon communicate with the two Houses in writing.

At 1:35, General Babcock delivered the President's message, and it was read. The reading of the message was concluded at 2:40 P. M.

Mr. CARPENTER moved that it be laid on the table and printed, together with the accompanying documents. Agreed to.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Department of Justice and the Comptroller of the Currency, which were ordered laid on the table and printed. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The hour preceding the opening of the session was spent by members in greetings, handshaking and expressions of regret or rejoicing over the results of the recent elections. The galleries were crowded, and the corridors almost impassible.

At noon the proceedings were formally opened with prayer by the Chaplain, Mr. Butler, who prayed, among other things, for the purification and increased power of that great engine, the Press. The Clerk then called the roll, which showed present 238 of the 301 members constituting the House. Four new members, Messrs. Schell and Chittenden, of New York; Carpenter, of South Carolina, and Finck, of Ohio, had the oath administered.

Resolutions were offered by Messrs. GARFIELD and DAWES to notify the Senate that the House was in session and for the appointment of a joint committee to wait upon the President and inform him that Congress was prepared to receive any communication he desired to make. Messrs. Dawes, Hale, Nye and Beck were appointed such committee on the part of the House.

Mr. PHELPS asked unanimous consent for introducing and the immediate consideration of a bill to repeal the law known as the "Press Gag Law."

Mr. GEORGE F. HOAR, of Massachusetts, asked whether it was the custom to transact business before the reception of the President's message.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts—Oh! yes.

The SPEAKER—The usage is not to transact business after a committee is appointed to wait upon the President until the President has been heard from.

Mr. COX—Let the bill be read, and perhaps there will be no objection.

The bill was read. It amends the second section of the act by providing that the provisions of the thirty-third section of the Judiciary act of 1789 shall apply in all cases, except in actions of libel and slander, in the courts created by act of Congress in the District of Columbia.

Mr. HALE, of New York—I object unless the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The House, at 12:35 took a recess of half an hour. The recess was further extended for half an hour, and at the end of that time the President's message was received and read to the House by the Clerk.

The reading of the message was concluded at 2:45. It was ordered to be printed.

Mr. GARFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Legislative, Executive and Judicial appropriation bill, which was made the special order for Tuesday of next week.

Mr. HALE, of Maine, from the same Committee, reported the Naval Appropriation bill, which was made the special order for Wednesday of next week.

Mr. WHEELER, from the same committee, reported the Army Appropriation bill, which was made the special order for Thursday of next week.

Mr. LOUGHRIDGE, from the same committee, reported the Indian Appropriation bill, which was made the special order for Friday of next week.

Mr. STARKWEATHER, from the same committee, reported the Fortification bill, which was made the special order for Tuesday, the 22d of December.

The amount appropriated by the several bills is as follows: Legislative bill $19,653,431; navy $16,976,666; army $27,791,500; Indians $4,861,507; fortifications $850,000.

Mr. PHELPS gave notice that he would next Monday, if he got the floor, move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which he sought to introduce and pass to-day, to repeal the "Press Gag Law." Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1874.

The following bills were introduced and ordered to be printed and lie upon the table till the appointment of committees:

By Mr. WRIGHT, A bill fixing the salary of the President of the United States at $25,000 after the present term.

By Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia, A resolution requesting the President to transmit to the Senate a detailed statement from June 30, 1865, to the end of the last fiscal year, showing the names of the postmasters, paymasters, collectors of internal revenue and customs, officers of the Freedman's Bureau and others to whom money is due and unpaid, the amount of indebtedness and names of sureties, by whom, and the States from which officers were appointed; also requesting the President to report the number of acres of public lands granted to railroad companies, canals, or other works of internal improvement. Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.

Mr. DAVIS gave notice that he would call up the resolution for action at an early day.

By Mr. CHANDLER, A bill amendatory of section 10 of the National Currency act of 1864 and section 9 of the act of July 13, 1866. It provides that they shall not be construed, either in pending cases or otherwise, to apply to evidences of actual indebtedness issued by any mining, manufacturing or other corporation or by individuals, except banks or bankers, prior to the enactment of this bill, but shall apply to such evidences of indebtedness issued thereafter upon positive proof of their being calculated and intended to circulate as money.

HOUSE.

Mr. DURBAN, from the Committee on Banking and Currency, reported a bill reducing allowances to bank examiners and fixing the rates. After an explanation by Mr. Durban the bill was passed.

Mr. MAYNARD, Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, reported a bill to amend the national banking act in the matter of proceedings in liquidation.

In response to a question as to where the bill was to make shareholders liable for a bank's indebtedness, Mr. MAYNARD said the bill went no farther in that direction than the original act, holding shareholders liable to an extent equal to the amount of their shares. After some discussion the bill was, at the suggestion of Mr. Niblack, recommitted with leave to report at any time.

The following bills were introduced and referred to committees:

By Mr. HOLMAN, To substitute United States notes for the issues of national banks.

By Mr. BECK, To prohibit Senators, Representatives and Delegates in Congress from acting as counsel or otherwise in suits or proceedings against the United States. He moved its reference to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, suggested that the Judiciary Committee was the proper reference.

Mr. BECK said that the bill pertained to revenue cases, and he instanced the employment of a New York Senator in a tax case of the New York Central Railroad Company.

Mr. RANDALL—I move that the House now proceed to the consideration of the bill.

The SPEAKER—That requires unanimous consent.

There was no objection, and the bill, having been amended at the suggestion of Mr. G. F. Hoar by omitting from the penalty a provision for disqualification for holding office, was passed without objection.

By Mr. MYERS, To restore the duty of ten per cent. on certain manufactures of cotton, wood, iron, paper, glass, leather &c.

By Mr. E. H. ROBERTS, Proposing amendments to the Constitution providing that Congress shall not make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of individual debts, and that Congress shall pass no law impairing the obligation of contracts.

By Mr. MERRIAM, For free banking.

By Mr. HEREFORD, For the improvement of the Kanawha river.

By Mr. TOWNSEND, of Pennsylvania, To repeal the acts requiring stamps on bank checks, &c.; also authorizing the President to correspond with foreign nations concerning the establishment of a system of international arbitration.

By Mr. RANDALL, Repealing the increase of the President's salary.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the general calendar and, after laying aside several bills without action, took up the bill, of which Mr. Kelley is the author, for the exchange of greenbacks into 3-65 convertible bonds.

Mr. KELLEY proceeded to address the House in support of the bill. He said that it proposed that when any individual had any money lying idle, for which he had no present use, he might lend it to the Government at the rate of 3-65 per cent., recalling it, as he might do from a savings bank, when the time came for the use of the money. He claimed that the Government would thus get about $500,000,000 at that low rate of interest, with which to redeem the gold-bearing bonds now held abroad; that it would relieve the Government of its foreign debt; that it would give increased value to greenbacks, diminish the demand for gold and thereby remove the disparity between them and gold. It would quicken every industry and restore confidence to the people.

After speaking for twenty-five minutes, Mr. Kelley yielded to Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, who advocated the bill and claimed that it was in accord with the position which he had held on the subject for many years. If a person wanted money as a business loan, he could not borrow it on commercial paper at less than seven, eight, nine or ten per cent.; and why? Because it was understood that Congress and the Executive were determined to contract the currency until specie payment was reached. But specie payment there never had been and never would be. It was always a delusion. But specie values they would come to. He wanted the Government to come into the market as a borrower at a low rate of interest; then the next range would be nearer to it, and so on until all rates of interest came down. The Republican party is held responsible for the distress which has been brought on the country. We have become a party of invested capital, a party of bondholders and monopolists. The Republican party attracted the true men of the country when it started, because it started by bringing up labor. It commenced at the lowest stratum—the slave—and raised him to citizenship. But war and the necessities of the Government brought to the party the capitalists of the country, and at last, when the war was over, we had a party at the head of which were capitalists and at the foot the negroes, with not much affiliation between them. [Laughter on the part of the Democrats.] There is no occasion for your laughter, as the Democratic party is in very much the same condition. The old Whig party leaders, the capitalists of that party, who would not come into the Republican party because they would not go for bringing up laboring men, finding nowhere else to go, went over and became leaders in the Democratic party, and so that is a party now with the old Whig bondholders for its head and Irishmen for its tail. [Laughter.]—and there there is very little affiliation between head and tail either. We have got into this abnormal condition of things, and the Republican party has got for the last time the opportunity to relieve the country from its distress, to recover its confidence and to show that the people are objects of its care. If we fail now, we fail forever; because a party once inaugurated lasts for a generation, and that is to all of us here, forever.

At the close of Mr. Butler's speech, Mr. KELLEY offered a substitute for the second section of the bill, providing that the Secretary of the Treasury shall invest seventy-five per cent. of the United States notes received in exchange of such convertable bonds in the purchase or redemption of any bonds outstanding at the time of the passage of the act, or in purchase of gold with which to redeem such bonds.

Mr. GARFIELD—I believe this bill is fraught with measureless evils to every great and good interest of the people of these United States; not to the Government alone, but to the governed—the capitalist, and most of all to the laboring interests. For the last ten years I have given as much of my time, with what ability I could, to the study of this question as to any other before the American people, and I believe it is clearly demonstrated that were we now to enter on the path pointed out in this bill and advocated by the two gentlemen who have addressed the House, that path would lead us by a quick and rapid grade downward to the most measureless disaster which has ever befallen the business and prosperity of the American people. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Butler) says truly that a man can borrow millions on millions in New York to-day, if he wants to borrow it on call, but if he offer commercial paper and desire money for six, or eight, or ten, or twelve months, he cannot get it except at a large rate of interest. And then the gentleman gave a reason, which to me is the most amazing reason that could be given. The reason why money cannot be so borrowed, he says, is that men who have money are afraid that Congress will resume specie payment, or that Congress and the President will do it.

Mr. BUTLER—No. I did not say that. I said they feared that Congress was going on with the contraction of the currency. I said you never could resume.

Mr. GARFIELD—In other words, the capitalists, who have money in their hands, will not lend it for nine or ten months ahead, for fear the legislation of Congress will make that money better at the time it is to be paid back to them. Now, who ever heard a reason like that given for anything in the world? I can understand that precisely the reverse is the reason of the money-lender. He declines to put his money out of his hands for a number of months, because of his fear of just such measures as this, tending to depreciate the value of his money and to provide that it shall come back into his hands worth far less than when it left him. The gentleman says that in his State, and all States, the business of the country slumbers on a volcano because, for example, the $200,000,000 in the savings bank of Massachusetts are invested there on call; and he says that should even the servant girls of that State at once make a demand for their deposits, the business of the State would collapse. Now, if I understand the nature and effect of this bill, it is to put the entire finances of the United States in just such a position as that in which the gentleman pictures the affairs of his own State—to say that all the great obligations which this Government owes shall be obligations on call—to say that there may be a rush, not of servant girls alone, but of all the speculators in the land, to demand either more greenbacks for the bonds delivered, or more bonds for the greenbacks delivered. Of course all the great volumes of money which New York capitalists hold to-day, and are willing to lend at two per cent. on call, as the gentleman says, would be lent to the Government at 3-65 during times when it was not required for more profitable uses.

Mr. KELLEY—Would the Government be injured by receiving at 3-65, paper interest and redeeming six per cent. gold bonds with it?

Mr. GARFIELD—With the prospect of being called on next week to use more than what they got for it in redeeming it when it was presented to them to get currency again? This is a proposition to the effect that if there be a lull in business in the United States, so that a few millions or a hundred millions may be lying idle at any time, the Treasury of the United States shall take that and give the capitalist interest on it. But the moment that the capitalist finds a more profitable use for his money in speculation, he comes to the Treasury and says: "Give me my money now; I have not needed it while you have had it, and you have paid me interest upon it, but now that I can speculate with it at a higher rate, give it back to me."

Mr. KELLEY—Why do not the owners of the sixty millions which lie dead in your treasury draw them out? They stand there a perpetual refutation of that argument.

Mr. GARFIELD—If the gentleman pursues a policy which demoralizes gold and makes it a mere commodity, I do not wonder that men who have gold are willing to let the Treasury keep it for them. But let gold be made money—the money of the Constitution—and they will soon withdraw it.

Mr. KELLEY—It is not sixty millions gold, but greenbacks.

Mr. GARFIELD—I have but a few words more to say. We have been going through a great struggle that began when the war broke out and has not yet ended. We passed from the level of peace up to the turbulent and stormy heights of war, and as a dire necessity, not as a matter of statesmanship for peace, but as a terrible and fell necessity of war, we issued $350,000,000 of paper as a forced loan, with the full purpose of all thoughtful statesmen of that time to take it up at the earliest possible moment and restore the Government to the money standard of the Constitution. We went up booming in those days of increase and inflation, and as in such times all business is easy, so when we attempted to return we found it very hard. We have been coming down through great tribulations, distress and panic, and hard times for all mark out the pathway downward towards solid values. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Butler) says there has been twenty-five per cent. of shrinkage in Massachusetts and thirty-three per cent. in New York. There has been a great shrinkage everywhere, and now when we are almost down to solid ground and honest values, the proposition of these gentlemen is that we cut loose forever—I say forever in the sense the gentleman from Massachusetts used it—from the old traditional values of our money, and go off floating, ballooning, flying, with no hope of a return forevermore. I should feel myself base enough if I did not protest to the extent of all my power against any scheme that proposes to send this country back again into the clouds and darkness through which we have come in our financial affairs. If there was ever a time when American statesmanship needed courage and self-denial—that self-denial that shall reduce expenditure and expansion and resist all schemes that would help to keep us from solid values, honest industries and honest results—that time is now. In my judgment, this country owes a debt of gratitude to the President and the Secretary of the Treasury for their utterance ons that subject, and I believe they will receive the thanks of the better and more thoughtful classes of the people in this country, without distinction of party. I trust that we shall not mistake effects for causes. I am amazed at gentlemen who say that the cause of our disaster is lack of currency, and that more currency is the remedy. On the contrary, it is clear to me that one of the prime causes of our disaster has been our unsettled, unsteady, fluctuating values, and that the remedy for it all is to reach solid ground.

Mr. DAWES, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, remarked that upon his motion the House had gone into committee, not for the purpose of precipitating this debate upon the country, but for the purpose of addressing itself to current business. Yet, said he, I do not know that I regret that we have come at once upon the subject which rises above all others in importance, and presses itself more than any other for solution upon the consideration of this Congress. I shall myself, so far as I can, endeavor to urge upon the House the consideration of this question until they announce to the country some settled policy upon it, and I desire, therefore, to ask the committee to rise now and to permit us on the morrow, if it be convenient, to renew this debate; not simply for the purpose of indulging in debate in general platitudes or enunciations of principles, but for the purpose of applying ourselves to the solution of this whole question. The Government of the United States has $382,000,000 of its promises afloat in the land. No other nation has the like. This nation, in no other hour of its history, was ever in this situation. The difficulties that beset labor and capital were solely from the depreciation of this $382,000,000 of promises. They are promises of the Government. They are below par. That measure, and that measure only, will bring relief to this country, which will make them on a par with the money of the civilized world. We need not address ourselves to any collateral issue nor discuss any other elemental principles. What policy is that they will make these promises equal to the money of the world? They are promises of the Government. It is the Government that has depreciated its own promises. It is incumbent on the Government representatives here to provide that the Government shall make up to those whom they have forced to take this depreciated paper, the difference between it and gold. No other measure will be tolerated by the civilized world or will bring relief to the distress of labor, the stagnation of capital, the disturbance of values; these bring all our woes.

Mr. COX deprecated the renewal of this financial discussion, as necessarily fruitless. We know, said he, that no results will flow from it, except those fluctuations in business which are sure to follow such Congressional agitation. The solid people, the business men, the merchants and workingmen, do not expect legislation from this session. It would be wise, if not decorous, to allow the popular party, when in power, to settle this question if they can. Business, if reviving, will feel a blow from this discussion of the subject. Speculators thrive on these inconsequential debates. We know the Senate will not pass this measure and the House should not; and if it were passed, the President would veto it.

Mr. KELLEY rose to a point of order, and protested against any attempt to overawe the House by threats of what the Senate or President would do.

Mr. DAWES insisted on his motion that the committee rise.

Mr. COX—This is the dying kick of a dying party. [Laughter.]

The committee then rose, the bill was ordered printed and the House adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9, 1874.

The following memorials were presented and laid on the table, to be referred to committees:

Mr. CHANDLER presented the memorial of the National Association of Lumbermen against the proposed Reciprocity treaty between the United States and the British North American Provinces. The memorial shows the total lumber product of the United States, standing pine and hemlock timbers, losses by forest fires, cost of making lumber, number of men employed, etc.; also, a criticism of the memorandum signed by the Plenipotentiaries and a resolution of the National Association against the reciprocity treaty, claiming that it is unconstitutional and violates treaties with other nations.

The Senate, at 12:35 P. M., adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hotchkiss in the chair, and referred various parts of the President's message to appropriate committees. The portion of the message relating to affairs in Arkansas was referred to the Select Committee on that subject appointed at the last session, and the portion referring to troubles in Louisiana and other Southern States, to a select committee of seven members, to be appointed by the Speaker.

BATTLE IN VICKSBURG.

Negroes Attack the City and Are Driven Back—Many Killed and Wounded.

VICKSBURG, MISS., December 7.—There has been for sometime trouble brewing between the Tax Payers' Association and citizens and the county officials. The Sheriff was acting without legal bond, and the Board of Supervisors refused to order a new one, though the time for paying taxes had arrived. Two or three others officials were under indictment for forgery and embezzlement, and the citizens, despairing of any relief from partizan courts, last Wednesday held a meeting and in a body proceeded to the Court House to demand the resignation of the Sheriff, Chancery Clerk, Treasurer and Coroner. All fled, except Sheriff Crosby (negro), and he signed his resignation. Saturday a card appeared on the streets, signed by Crosby, calling on all the citizens of Warren county, Republicans white and black, to come to his aid and support him in his position. Crosby publicly and through the papers denied the authorship of the card, yet this morning armed bodies of negroes appeared, advancing on the city from six different roads. The alarm was sounded about nine o'clock, and citizens gathered *en masse*, armed immediately and advanced to meet the negroes on the Baldwin's ferry road. The negroes were met just outside the city, on Grove street, about two hundred strong. The commander of the citizens warned the negroes to disperse, but they refused, and immediately firing commenced down both sides. The negroes retreated about a mile and again made a stand in the old breastworks, but were soon routed. The loss in this engagement was one citizen (Oliver Brown) killed, and about twelve or fifteen negroes killed, several wounded and about twenty taken prisoners.

On the Hall's ferry road about 250 negroes were found and routed, after a short engagement, with several killed and wounded. Andrew Owens, (negro), who commanded the negroes on the Baldwin ferry road, was captured and committed to jail. In an interview with a *Herald* reporter, Owens said he was ordered by Sheriff Crosby to come to the city to-day with all the armed men he could get together. Alex. Stockhouse, from Newton, one of the captured negroes, says the order for all the negroes to come to Vicksburg this morning was read in church Sunday. Crosby, who is under guard at the Court House, denies that he gave such orders. It is reported this evening that the negroes are committing depredations in the country. The intense excitement that prevailed this morning has subsided to a great degree, yet many citizens are under arms and all roads are picketed.

At a public meeting this evening, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That while we are fully satisfied that Peter Crosby has caused armed negroes to march on the city, and should therefore be held mainly responsible for all the blood that has been shed, we recommend all good citizens to abstain from inflicting any personal violence upon him, and that we use still further efforts to have him removed from office in some legal manner.

Evidence just received renders it absolutely certain that Governor Ames and his Attorney General, George E. Harris, incited and advised the invasion of this city by the negroes to-day. This evidence has been laid before the ablest lawyers of the city, with a view to arresting and bringing these parties to this city for trial.

VICKSBURG, December 8.—The excitement about the Court House was intense this morning, but the commanders of the various companies restored quiet and the lives of Peter Crosby and other prisoners are safe. Lieut. Col. O. S. Lee, aide-de-camp, Adjutant General Parker and a committee of citizens met in the court room to-day to devise what course to pursue. In a private interview between Packer, Lee and Crosby, Crosby expressed a desire to tender his resignation as Sheriff. General Packer prepared his resignation, to take effect immediately, which he signed and which was witnessed by Lee and Packer and is now in possession of the latter. About fifty prisoners are now in jail. Scouts from the country report all quiet for miles around. Business is gradually being resumed. Colonel John D. Beard, Colonel of the First Cavalry regiment of Warren county, State militia, has issued an order requiring all organized companies in the county to report for duty at once to Colonel French, of the Fourth regiment, in command at the Court House.

VICKSBURG, December 9.—The excitement is subsiding. Business is generally resumed. Armed bodies of negroes are reported congregating at various places a few miles from town. Some whites are under arms and a strict guard is being kept on the approaches to the city.

The Board of Supervisors met to-day. Adjutant General Packer presented the resignation of Sheriff Crosby, which was accepted. An election will be ordered for Sheriff soon. The recent robbing of the records furnished evidence of the forgery and embezzlement of Peter Crosby (Sheriff), Wash Davenport (Chancery clerk) and other negro officials, all of whom are under indictment, except Crosby, who packed the Grand Jury for his own protection. The stolen records were found this evening in or under the house of Davenport, who is now a fugitive from justice, with seven indictments against him. For a week past he has been in consultation with his friends at Jackson.

Ed. Richardson attempted to go into the jail to-day. When passing out he made some obnoxious remarks and was shot through the arm by the guard, the ball lodging in Tom. Kinney's knee and inflicting a serious wound.

Governor Ames has issued a proclamation calling an extra session of the Legislature for Thursday, the 17th inst., to take some action in the premises.

FOREIGN.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Russia.

HIGH TIDE AT ST. PETERSBURG—THE SUFFERING POOR.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 8.—A violent storm occurred here last night, causing much damage. The tide rose nine feet above high water mark, partially inundating the lower portions of the city. A large number of families of the poorer classes were driven from their houses. Over a thousand persons were sheltered by the police, and public kitchens were opened to supply the sufferers with food.

Spain.

DON CARLOS AND ISABELLA.

PARIS, December 8.—There is a rumor that Don Carlos is negotiating with the ex-Queen Isabella. It is said that

MARSHAL SERRANO'S PLAN

for the suppression of the insurrection is to occupy the entire line of the Pyrenees frontier, and taking the Carlists in the rear, drive them towards the army of General Moriones.

FIGHTING AT OYARZUN.

HENDAYE, December 8.—Fighting has been going on at Oyarzun since eight this morning. The firing was heavy this afternoon.

France.

LAFAYETTE'S WATCH PRESENTED TO HIS DESCENDANTS—INTERESTING SCENE AT THE AMERICAN LEGATION.

PARIS, December 9.—In conformity with the resolution adopted by the American Congress on the 22d of June last, Mr. Washburne, United States Minister, to-day handed to M. Oscar de Lafayette, Deputy in the National Assembly from Seine et Marne, and grandson of the Marquis de Lafayette, the watch Washington presented to the latter as a souvenir of the capitulation of Lord Cornwallis. The watch was stolen from the Marquis de Lafayette while he was traveling in the United States in the year 1825, but was recovered in later years. The presentation ceremonies took place at the hotel of the American Embassy, in presence of the entire Lafayette and other families, attaches of the United States Legation and many distinguished Americans. Mr. Washburne, in addressing M. de Lafayette, narrated the circumstances of the theft of the watch and the passage by Congress of the resolution for its restoration to the descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette, and said: "I am fulfilling a pleasant duty. The inscription on the watch recalls to mind a great deal which can never be effaced from the history of the United States, the deed which terminated the American Revolution and assured the independence of the United States. I am here as the interpreter of the sentiments of the Government and the people of the United States towards you and the other descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette. Let us convey earnest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of all bearing your venerated name, and with those wishes let us associate France, who was allied with the United States, who is our traditional friend, and whose glory is so dear to us."

M. de Lafayette, in reply to Mr. Washburne, acknowledged his thanks for the relic presented to him by the United States Congress. He also thanked Mr. Washburne for the kind words he had uttered, and added that the Lafayette family were filled with profound gratitude for the sympathetic remembrances which have been preserved for their ally by the Americans after so many years. He requested Mr. Washburne to express to the American people, and to their Congress and Government, the thanks of the Lafayette family and their homage and admiration for their second country.

THE CLOSING OF THE MILLS.

The Fires of Eight Hundred Furnaces Extinct—Twenty Thousand Men Thrown Out of Employment—Great Suffering Among the Poor Inevitable—The Outlook at the Mills, &c., &c.

As we predicted in our last report concerning the affairs of the iron men, a lock-out in nearly all the mills of this city is now a fact. This unwelcome fact stared in the faces of thousands of men who visited the great workshops on Monday morning; for, of the eight hundred furnaces which for years past have furnished constant employment to so many, all save fifty-three were idle. We append a list of the firms which have closed their pudling departments, together with such other information as will be of interest to the general public:

American Iron Works, Messrs. Jones & Laughlins—Seventy-two furnaces, employing four hundred men. Have on hand 1,500 tons of muck bar, which will run the other departments of the mill, without the services of the puddlers, several months.

Lewis, Baily, Dalzell & Co.—Twenty-three furnaces; two hundred men out; firm unable to fill orders at present prices without a loss of $7 per ton.

Lewis, Oliver & Phillips—Thirty-two furnaces in Allegheny mill stopped; about one hundred and fifty men out. Mill on South Side, with forty furnaces and two hundred men, will close in a short time.

Glass, Neely & Co., Keystone Iron Works—Shut down their puddling mill Saturday. Have [...] puddling furnaces and one scrap furnace, employing two hundred and sixty hands. They have sufficient muck bar to run their mills for four months without boilers.

Graff, Bennett & Co.—Seventy furnaces; about 300 men. Have muck bar to sort up stock for several weeks.

Reese, Graff & Woods—Twenty-five furnaces; about 200 men.

Lloyd & Sons—Twenty-three furnaces and 150 men. Will shut down next week.

W. D. Wood & Co., McKeesport—Seven furnaces; about 50 men. Enough muck iron to run all winter.

J. Painter & Sons—Fifty-two furnaces; about 220 men. Enough muck bar to run two weeks.

Chess, Smythe & Co.—Twenty furnaces; about 90 men. Enough iron to run all winter without puddlers.

Sligo Iron Works—Eighty puddlers and helpers out of employment.

Dilworth, Porter & Co.—Fifty boilers and helpers out. Enough muck iron to last over a month.

Everson, Macrum & Co.—Sixty-eight puddlers and helpers out. Are prepared to run several months without puddlers.

Wayne Iron Works, Black & Co.—One hundred and thirty employees discharged. Plenty of muck-bar.

Pittsburgh Forge and Iron Company—One hundred men out. Muck sufficient to run several months.

Pittsburgh Bolt Company—Twenty-four puddlers out. Can supply orders for some time from stock on hand.

Sable Iron Works, Zug & Co.—Three hundred and thirty-three men out of employment.

Shoenberger & Co.—Four hundred and fifty men discharged.

Carnegie, Kloman & Co.—Puddlers out; number not ascertained.

Solar Hoop Mills, William Clark & Co.—Decline to employ puddlers at present prices.

Moorhead & Co.—Twenty-two puddlers and 600 other hands. Orders nearly run out, and will probably close in a short time.

Wilson, Leggatt & Co.—Fifteen furnaces shut down, and nearly two hundred men out.

Byers & McCullough—Fifty puddlers and four hundred other hands. Will probably shut down next Saturday.

The puddlers that are out of employment do not comprise one-fifth of the number of persons deprived of the means of earning bread for themselves and families. Those who will suffer most are the helpers and others whose work must cease on account of the action of the puddlers—they who receive the smallest wages, and, of course, are not able to lay away anything for a rainy day.

A leading iron manufacturer, in conversation last evening with a representative of this paper, stated that he had made a careful estimate of the number of persons who would be directly affected by the lock-out—that is, absolutely thrown out of employment—and it would not be far short of 20,000. The depression of business which must result from the locking up of the $150,000 which daily flowed from the coffers of the manufacturers, can scarcely be estimated. Taking it all in all, this lock-out is the most deplorable event that has ever occurred in this community.

THE CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD.

Annual Meeting—Re-election of the Old Board—Annual Report to be Presented in February.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company was held on Monday, at noon, at the office in this city.

The meeting was organized by the election of Joel C. Strawn, of Uniontown, as President, and appointing J. B. Washington, Esq., Secretary.

President Cohen stated that the fiscal year of the Company's affairs did not close until October 31, and it had been found impossible to prepare a report in time for presentation to the stockholders. He suggested an adjournment until the second Wednesday in February, 1875, same as last year, by which time the report will be made.

It was moved that when the meeting adjourn it be to reassemble at the time suggested by the President—viz.: second Wednesday of February which was agreed to.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

On motion it was decided to proceed with the election of a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and tellers having been appointed the election was proceeded with, and resulted in choice of the old board. The following gentlemen comprise the directory:

Mendes Cohen, Baltimore, Md.
Wm. S. Bissell, Pittsburgh, Pa.
G. L. B. Fetterman, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Wm. Baldwin, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Wm. Keyser, Baltimore, Md.
Jno. Donnell Smith, Baltimore, Md.
Wm. H. Perkins, Baltimore, Md.
H. G. Vickery, Baltimore, Md.
Hugh Sisson, Baltimore, Md.
Chas. Webb, Baltimore, Md.
Israel Cohen, Baltimore, Md.
George R. Dennis, Frederick, Md.

The Board of Directors met at five o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing officers. The present officers of the company were all re-elected.

Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. W. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, makes the following mortuary report, for the week ending December 5, 1874: Accident, 1; asthma, 2; congestion of brain, 1; chronic bronchitis, 1; cancer of uterus, 1; cancer of stomach, 2; cerebro-spinal fever, 1; consumption, 4; convulsions, 3; diphtheritis, 3; debility, 1; dysentery, 2; epilepsy, 1; erysipelas, 1; typhoid fever, 5; scarlet fever, 6; puerperal fever, 1; gastritis, 3; gastro enteritis, 1; gangrene, 1; hernia, 1; hemorrhage of cord, 1; congestion of lungs, 2; malformation of heart, 1; meningitis, 4; old age, 2; pneumonitis, 4; tabes mesenterica, 1; unknown, 1; whooping cough, 4—total, 66. Color—white, 62; colored, 4—total, 66. Social relations—Married, 17; single, 46; widows, 1; widowers, 2. Nativity—Pittsburgh, 40; other parts of United States, 6; England, 1; Germany, 5; Ireland, 10; Scotland, 1; Wales, 1; other foreigners, 1; not stated, 1. Age—Under 1 year, 15; from 1 to 2 years, 5; from 2 to 5 years, 12; from 5 to 10 years, 3; from 15 to 20 years, 4; from 20 to 30 years, 7; from 30 to 40 years, 7; from 40 to 50 years, 1; from 50 to 60 years, 5; from 60 to 70 years, 4; from 70 to 80 years, 1; from 80 to 90 years, 1; not stated, 1. Localities—City wards, 61; West Pa. Hospital, 1; Mercy Hospital, 2; Pittsburgh Infirmary, 1; St. Francis Hospital, 1. Cases of infectious disease reported during the week—Scarlet fever, 43; typhoid fever, 28; diphtheria, 3 varioloid, 2; cerebro-spinal fever, 1.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS.

Two Penitentiary Prisoners Scale a High Wall, and Obtain Their Liberty—One of the Fugitives Arrested.

About eight o'clock on Friday morning, two convicts in the Western Penitentiary, Joseph Tracks and Charles Hill, escaped from that institution by scaling a wall about thirty feet high, and descending to the street below by means of a rope made with bed clothes. It seems, a guard of two men had just taken a gang of prisoners from their cells in the main building to the cigar factory. In doing so they had to pass from the main building into that portion of the yard between the factory building and the outside wall, and travel some twenty or thirty feet to the door of the factory building. Tracks and Hill, who were among the gang, went to their customary station on the second floor of the factory building, the rest of the gang being stationed on the first floor. When the prisoners had been taken to their room, one of the guard being in doubt as to weather he had closed the door leading from the main building into the yard, went back to examine it, and while the other officer was otherwise engaged, Hill and Tracks quietly dropped two or three boards from their room on the second floor, which were there for service in the handling of tobacco, and descending the stairs, rapidly constructed something to serve as a ladder and placing it against an offset, mounted the wall. They had with them pieces of sheets and blankets, which they had already formed into a rope, and fastening it to the board, let themselves down into Sherman avenue. The first thing they did after reaching the street was to strip themselves of the striped prison dress, both having provided themselves with pants made of blankets, which they wore as under clothing. They then ran up to Montgomery avenue and a short distance along that thoroughfare, but before reaching Federal street they separated, Hill crossing the park and running up toward the burned district, and Tracks crossing Federal street and running along Montgomery avenue into the Third ward.

Two gentlemen, named Moore and Boyd, witnessed the escape, and started to notify the authorities. Six officers of the Penitentiary started in pursuit within five minutes after the prisoners had escaped, and the Allegheny Mayor's police were also notified of the affair. The fugitives were followed along Montgomery avenue; but they soon eluded further pursuit by separating and running into different alleys, through yards and scaling fences. Officer Scott, of the Mayor's detective force of Allegheny City, together with one or two other officers, searched the houses of four or five relatives of Tracks in the Third and Eighth wards, in the hope of recovering their man, but no traces of him could be found.

Tracks is a man about five feet ten inches in height, dark hair, dark complexion, with black moustache and chin whiskers. He is said to look somewhat pale and delicate from confinement in prison. He was convicted of the crime of robbery near New Castle, some four years ago, and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of nine years in the Penitentiary. It is stated by some of the Allegheny officers that he is the man who committed a burglary on a house some two or three miles from New Castle, about four or five years ago, and burned one of the inmates so badly that he died. He has served four years in the Penitentiary and had five still to serve.

Hill is an inch or two shorter than Tracks, not quite so heavy, with dark hair, dark complexion, and a very light black moustache. Tracks had a very low forehead, but Hill is a very gentlemanly-looking fellow, with an intelligent-looking countenance. Hill was convicted of the crime of larceny in this county, and has served two years and a half in the institution, the original term being five years.

ARREST OF ONE OF THE FUGITIVES.

In the evening, about seven o'clock, Chief of Police Clark, with the assistance of Officers Cowell and Arbogast, succeeded in arresting Tracks, and by half past seven he was again in his old quarters. It appears the Chief got word last evening that Tracks was at the house of a Mr. Carless, on Liberty street, Allegheny, and summoning the officers named, the three repaired to the house designated. Stationing his men, one at the front and one at the rear door, Chief Clark entered the house and found a man in a back room on the first floor. He stepped up to him and told him he wanted him, when the man sprang back and said, "Do you know who I am?" The Chief responded, "I know you, and I am going to arrest you," at the same time presenting his revolver. By this time the other officers had entered the room, and Officer Cowell produced a pair of "nippers," which he affixed to the prisoner's wrist, and he was taken to the station house and placed in a cell.

Warden Wright was at once notified of the arrest, and he was not long putting in an appearance at the station house. Entering the prisoner's cell, he was met by the inquiry, "Do I look like Tracks?" The Warden replied that he did not much resemble the Tracks who had left him in the morning, but he was pretty well satisfied that he was the same Joseph Tracks. The prisoner seemed to think he was so well disguised as to render his identification impossible. His face was cleanly shaven, and he had been provided with a large overcoat, a pair of blue drilling overalls and a dark cloth cap. By direction of the Warden, Officer Cowell adjusted a pair of handcuffs upon the prisoner's wrists, and he was safely conveyed to the Penitentiary, entering the portals of that institution at precisely half past seven o'clock, after an absence of nearly twelve hours.

In conversation with Warden Wright, Tracks was quite communicative regarding his movements after leaving the Penitentiary. He said that he first went to Butcher's Run, where he entered a house and procured something to eat from an old lady. After resting about an hour he went to the Ewalt street bridge and crossed over to Lawrenceville, where he remained all day, returning to the house in Allegheny after dark. He stated that he not been in Carless' house ten minutes before the police had him under arrest. It is said that Mr. Carless had told him he could not remain there, and was about to compel him to leave when the officers arrived and saved him that trouble.

There is a place in the Penitentiary called the "dark hole," provided for prisoners who become troublesome, and in this apartment Tracks was placed Friday night. He was closely questioned regarding his companion, but protested he knew nothing concerning his whereabouts.

MEETING OF MINERS.

Discussing the Situation—Ventilation Bill—A Sliding Scale Desired.

The Miners' Protective Association of Western Pennsylvania was called to assemble on Tuesday, but there were very few delegates present. Among these were representatives from the Pan Handle, the Youghiogheny, the Swissvale and the Sandy creek mines. Mr. Street presided, with Mr. Archbold as Secretary.

The present situation of affairs was represented as very discouraging, with no immediate prospects for improvement.

Mr. Steiner, of the State Commission to examine and report upon the condition of the mines in the bituminous coal region, reported that they had discharged their duty, and are now engaged in making a report for presentation to the Legislature. Nearly all the mines, in the opinion of the commissioners, are in need of better ventilation, which can be had at a trifling cost. Some of them were found not only unhealthful to work in, but dangerous to life. The Legislature will be asked to pass a ventilation bill for the better protection of the miners.

A sliding scale for mining, such as that adopted by the iron manufacturers and the puddlers, is now strongly favored by the miners, in hopes that by some such means future disagreements and strikes may be prevented. It is admitted that these strikes have proven disastrous to both the miners and the operators, and that it would be better for both parties if they could be avoided. The miners, however, seem to think that the operators will not consent to a sliding scale, preferring to take the chances of forcing wages down below fair living rates. At the same time, they admit that, with the depressed condition of the manufacturing industries, the prospects for the coal operators are anything but flattering. The stoppage of the puddling furnaces has added to the general stagnation at the mines, and the prospect for the winter is gloomy enough.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Arrangements for Carrying out the New Law.

The act of Congress approved June 23, 1874, requires that on and after the 1st of January, 1875, postage on newspapers and periodical publications mailed from a known office of publication or news agency, and addressed to regular subscribers or news agents, shall be charged at the rate of two cents per pound, if issued weekly or oftener, and at three cents per pound if issued less frequently than once a week. The matter is to be weighed in bulk, and postage paid with special adhesive stamps at the place of mailing. For this purpose stamps of twenty-four different denominations will be provided, viz.: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84 and 96 cents each, and $1 92, $3, $6, $12, $24 and $60 each, with which publishers and news-dealers will provide themselves, of such denominations as will suit the editions or number mailed by them. The stamps will be sent with the matter to be mailed, and at the office of mailing a receipt will be given to the publisher or news agent for the amount of postage paid, and the requisite stamps affixed to the stub and cancelled. It will be, therefore, incumbent upon publishers and news agents to ascertain the probable amount of the matter to be daily mailed, and to provide themselves with the necessary stamps as will suit their business. It will also be incumbent upon them to keep separate the two and three cent matter. As all matter will have to be weighed and prepared as classified, it will be necessary to arrange the classifications and the weights so that it can be received and receipted for and dispatched as speedily as possible. And in this publishers and news agents can facilitate their own interests and the work of the postoffice (as it will be necessary to do), in getting off the matter by the early morning mails, and avoiding the chances of delay by being prepared for the change and conforming to the regulations therefor. The rates upon newspapers and periodicals, other than from publishers and news agents, have not been changed, and are as before—one cent for each two ounces or fraction of an ounce, prepaid by stamps.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY RAILROAD.

Requisite Number of Signatures Obtained to the Compromise.

In the United States District Court, on Tuesday, Register Harper presented his report of the meeting of the representatives of the Allegheny Valley Railroad with its creditors, held last week at Lafayette Hall. The Register, in his report, states that the number required by law—two-thirds in number and one-half in value—have signed the agreement for a compromise with the railroad. Judge McCandless thereupon issued an order directing a final hearing in the matter on Tudseay next, the 15th instant, and directed the Marshal to issue notice to creditors to appear on that day and show cause, if any, why the action of the Lafayette Hall meeting should not be confirmed by court. Unless sufficient objections are then made the agreement will be consummated, the compromise made binding on all the creditors, and the proceedings in bankruptcy quashed.

Allegheny Mortuary Report.

Health Officer Hoch reports twenty-eight deaths in Allegheny for the week ending last Saturday. Causes—Typhoid fever, 3; scarlet fever, 2; still born, 2; diptheria, 2; remittant fever, 2; pneumonia, debility, dropsy, apoplexy, accident, croup, water on the brain, heart disease, phthisis pulmonalis, accident consumption, convulsions, hydrocephalus, hydrothorax, inanition, entitis and congestion of lungs, one each. Of these there were under one year of age, 8; between one and five, 5; between five and ten 2; between ten and twenty, 3; between twenty and thirty, 2; between thirty and forty, 1; between forty and fifty, 4; between sixty and seventy, 1; between seventy and eighty, 2. White, 27; colored, 1. Males 16; females, 12.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 9, 1874.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Comptroller of the Currency for a full copy of his report, presented to Congress at the opening of the session. As the more important portions of this report have already appeared in our telegraphic columns, we select only such facts and figures as are of local interest. The comparative table exhibiting by States the bank circulation, the amount *per capita* and the ratio of circulation to wealth and to capital previous to the organization of the national banking system and in 1874, shows that Pennsylvania had a bank note circulation in 1862 of $27,689,504, against $42,092,711 in 1874; the circulation *per capita* for the years above given, respectively, was 9.53 per cent. and 11.95; the ratio of circulation to wealth 1.9 and 1.1: the ratio of circulation to capital 106.8 and 78.1.

Of the relative value of the legal tender notes and the national bank notes, the Comptroller says:

"If the value of the paper dollar be determined by the amount of such money in circulation, then the national bank note is more valuable than the legal tender note. The national bank notes outstanding are secured by a deposit of more than $385,000,000 United States bonds, which are at a premium of more than twelve per cent. If the United States bonds be not sufficient value to pay these notes the capital and surplus of the banks, amounting to $622,000,000, as well as their entire assets, are available for that purpose. The stockholders are individually liable for the full amount of their stock in addition to the amount invested in such shares, and the United States guarantees the final payment of the notes. There are then, absolutely assets for more than three times the amount of the national bank notes outstanding, available for the redemption of these notes and in addition the contingent liability of the shareholders and the guarantee of their final payment by the United States. It is certain, therefore, that the demand for legal tender notes in exchange for national bank notes is not based on the conviction that the former are more valuable than the latter."

This is made the basis of an argument that the object of the Redemption Bureau is to renovate the currency, rather than to exchange one kind of currency for another, a conclusion we think erroneous, to which we will refer at another time.

The Comptroller furnishes a table exhibiting the aggregate capital and surplus, total dividends and total net earnings of the national banks, with the ratio of dividends to capital, dividends to capital and surplus, and earnings to capital and surplus, which shows that the average dividends upon capital during the past year were less than ten per cent., while the ratio of dividends to capital and surplus was less than eight per cent.

The Pittsburgh banks report dividend on capital for the years 1870 and 1874, inclusive at 10.3, 10.5, 10.7, 11.1 and 10.5 per cent.

The ratio of dividends to capital and surplus for the same time was 8.2, 8.3, 8.3, 8.7, 7.9 per cent.; the ratio of earnings to capital and surplus were 10.3, 9.8, 9.9, 9.9 and 9.4 per cent.

The following table exhibits the dividends and earnings of the Pittsburgh banks for the six months ending on the dates given:

	March 1, 1874.	Sept. 1, 1874.
Capital	$9,000,000	$9,000,000
Surplus	2,983,604	3,055,927
Dividends	459,000	489,000
Earnings	524,023	605,003

The ratio of earnings for the six months first succeeding the panic being 4.37, and for the last six months 5.02 per cent.

The effect of the banking law of June last is apparent in the per centage of reserve held by the banks, prior and subsequent to the passage of that law. On May 1, 1874, the banks of this city held 27.1 of reserve. On June 26th the per centage suddenly advances to 46.9, and in October again recedes to 36.7. That this change is but an apparent and not a real one, will be seen by the following figures: The circulation and deposits of the banks May 1, 1874, were $18,522,482, and the reserve was $5,016,450; the circulation and deposits June 26, 1874, were $19,342,553, and the reserve held was $5,739,604. The difference in the percentage of reserve arose from the fact that after June 20, 1874, the banks were not required to keep any reserve on account of their circulation. Only twice during the past four years have the banks of this city allowed their reserve to run below the legal requirement. On April 19, 1872, the average reserve was 23.5; on October 3d, 1872, it was 24.8, which was during a time of extraordinary and long continued stringency.

—In the United States District Court, before Judge Blatchford, on the 22d, the action of Albon P. Man, Receiver of the Eighth National bank, against Dr. W. G. Cheeseman, a stock holder, to recover the amount of the assessment made by the Receiver on the stock held by him, came on for hearing. This is one of the series of suits brought by Mr. Man against the stockholders: but in this case the defence was put up that Dr. Cheeseman was not a stockholder at the time the bank failed, he having transferred his stock to the bank. The Receiver contends that a national bank cannot buy in its own stock, and that even if it could, the transfer in this case is irregular, it having been made in blank. Judge Blatchford said he would hear testimony as to the transfer before deciding the questions raised by Mr. Man.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE,
Bankers and Brokers, 7 New st., New York,
December 8, 1874.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The stock market has been feverish and excited to-day, with no special feature in either of the leading stocks, beyond a general decline, varying from ¼ to 1 per cent. below the opening quotations. Pacific Mail has suffered from a heavy pressure of sales since the morning, and rumors of disagreement among the directors are again current; but the letter of the Attorney General to the Postmaster General, giving the opinion that the contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for increased services is still in force, was presented to the House, ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Appropriation. The good effect produced by this has evidently prevented a further decline in this stock, and we think it ought to recover still more of its recent decline. We regret to observe already a strong disposition in Congress to distrust the present financial status without any due attempt at arriving at any ultimate satisfactory basis of improvement, and we entertain some fear that our market will suffer a depreciation in values in consequence.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 9, 1874.	10:30 A. M	11:30 A. M	12:30 P. M	1:30 P. M	2:30 P. M	3:00 P. M
Gold	110⅞	111	111	111	110⅞	110⅞
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	119⅝	....	....	....	119¾	....
5-20's, 1862	112¾	....	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1864	114¼	....	....	....	114½	....
5-20's, 1865	116¼	....	....	....	116⅝	....
5-20's, 1865, new	118¼	....	....	....	118⅜	....
5-20's, 1867, coup	119¼	....	....	....	119¼	....
5-20's, 1867, reg	115¾	....	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1868	119⅝	....	....	....	119¼	....
10-40's	112¾	....	....	....	112⅞	....
10-40's, coupons	113¾	....	....	....	113¾	....
Currency 6's	116¼	....	....	....	116¼	....
New 5 per cents	112⅛	....	....	....	112⅛	....
Western Union Tel	82⅜	82½	....	82¾	82⅛	82⅜
Pacific Mail	39⅞	39⅞	40⅛	39⅞	....	39⅝
Adams Express	....	113¾	....	113½	....	....
Wells-Fargo Express	....	82	....	....	....	....
American Express	....	65¼	....	65	....	....
United States Exp's	....	64	....	64¼	....	....
New York Central	102⅛	102	....	....	....	101⅞
Erie	27	....	26¼	26	26¼	26⅛
Michigan Central	....	80	81	82	....	....
Michigan Southern	80⅛	79⅞	....	79⅞	79¾	80
Illinois Central	....	97	....	97	....	....
Cleveland & Pitts	....	....	....	87⅞	....	....
Chicago & Northw'n	46⅛	45¾	46⅝	46⅛	....	46¾
Do. preferred	....	61¼	....	61½	....	61½
Rock Island	101½	101⅜	101½	101½	....	101½
St. Paul, common	38¼	38⅛	38⅝	38¼	....	38¾
Do preferred	....	....	....	....	....	56¾
Wabash, common	30⅜	30¼	30⅛	30⅛	30¼	30¼
Fort Wayne	....	94⅞	....	....	....	....
Ohio & Mississippi	31¼	31⅛	31⅛	30¾	30¾	31⅛
Union Pacific	35⅜	35⅜	35½	35⅛	35⅛	35¼
Harlem	....	130½	....	....	....	....
Hannibal & St. Joe	....	....	....	....	....	26
C., C. & I. C.	....	9⅜	....	9¾	....	9¾
Tennessee, old	....	....	....	....	76	....
Tennessee, new	....	....	....	....	75	....
South Carolina, Apr.	....	....	....	....	21	....
Do. July	....	....	....	....	21	....
Missouri 6's	....	....	....	....	96½	....

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	52⅝	....
Pennsylvania Central scrip, sales	105⅛	....
Reading, sales	54⅞	....
Oil Creek, sales	8¼	....
Lehigh Valley, sales	62¼	....
Allegheny Valley	90	91
Central Transportation	43	....
Empire Transportation	54	55
Pitts. Cin. & St. Louis, m. b., sales	74½	....
Gold		111

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
WEDNESDAY, December 9, 1874.

The movement of merchandise generally continues rather sluggish, but in its way steady and materially unchanged. Orders for all kinds of goods are small and confined to immediate wants. Consumption is curtailed generally, and as an inevitable consequence, the volume of trade is proportionately smaller. Notwithstanding the prevalence of complaints, however, we do not think that the decrease of trade is greater than there was reason to expect; and when this shrinkage is followed by a concomitant shrinkage of values and the labor troubles which at present darken the horizon are satisfactorily settled, we may look for the much desired revival of trade.

During the past week there has been a fair volume of transactions in the grain market at prices very generally maintained. Receipts during the last day or two have increased somewhat, and we look for a larger business to follow. The Corn and Produce Exchange continues to be well attended at its daily meetings, and is gaining universal favor among the grain and produce dealers as an improved method of transacting business. Flour and feed are rather quiet at unchanged prices.

The produce and commission business is generally rather dull, owing to many unfavorable circumstances. The trade in poultry and game, which has been hindered very much by the warm weather, has been somewhat better for a day or two, but cannot be yet said to be brisk. Apples, butter, cheese, potatoes, &c., are sluggish, and not materially changed.

The course of the market for hog products is generally downward, owing to the unprecedentedly large influx of hogs into the Western markets. There has been an effort by the granger interest to manipulate the market so as to prevent a decline, but the movement has not been attended with perfect success. The St. Louis *Democrat* says of the provision market: "Things look squally for the packing interest. Chicago is said to have 80,000 unsold hogs in the pens of her Union Stock Yards. St. Louis carries about 15,000 head of unsold hogs, and the weather is getting as warm as spring time. The price in Chicago is fully fifty cents per 100 ℔s lower and still on the down grade." Owing to a temporary light stock, prices here have kept steady, but within a day or two receipts have increased largely and the market is easier.

Groceries are usually reported at this time as dull and unchanged. Coffees remain unchanged and rather dull, while teas and sugars are moderately active. New Orleans molasses is stronger, and we note an advance at the supply points.

The dry goods, boot and shoe and general merchandise trades are doing a rather moderate business in lines of seasonable goods. The demand in these branches is light and the volume of transactions is considerably reduced. The New York *Bulletin* says of the boot and shoe trade: "The general inclination is to follow out the plan of the past year, and, if possible, even more strictly as regards the accumulation of stock. Orders will not be given as freely even as they were last year, and there will be only such amounts of goods ordered as are wanted from time to time. This is expected by the manufacturers, and they are arranging their affairs to meet these requirements. In the jobbing line there continues to be a fair demand from the home and cross-roads trade, which has shown some improvement since the colder weather set in. Retailers have sold out more goods, and are hurrying up additional assortments."

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city, by river and rail, since our last, are as follows:

Flour, bbls	3,302	Apples, bbls	302
Cheese, bxs	142	Corn, sks	2,170
Wheat, sks	162	Barley, sks	410
Oats, sks	872	Butter, pkgs	95
Bacon tcs	170	Hay, bales	491

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	7,658	12,283	19,941
Apples, bbls	2,298	1,290	3,558
Cheese, bxs	2,579	1,093	3,672
Corn, sks	2,220	5,880	8,100
Wheat, sks	1,870	1,738	3,605
Barley, sks	2,293	8,962	11,255
Rye, sks	2,507	2,730	5,237
Oats, sks	6,461	9,388	15,849
Butter, pkgs	206	336	542
Bacon, pcs	7,139	11,652	18,793
Bacon, tcs	82	420	502
Potatoes, bush	1,719	2,220	3,939
Hay, bales	2,223	1,833	4,056

The following quotations are prices realized on wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—There is considerable increase in the receipts of grain, the arrivals during the past week having been 71,745 bushels, against 38,377 for the week preceeding. Prices are well sustained, and the demand continues up to the supply.

Wheat—There is some improvement in the demand for wheat, especially for standard red winter, the stock of which in this market is rather small. It is said that holders in the country have considerable quantities stored, for higher prices next spring; how correct this statement is, we cannot say. Quotations are not changed materially as yet. We quote choice Kentucky and Illinois white wheat at $1 35@1 38 ₩ bushel: extra Michigan white $1 25@1 27: Ohio ditto $1 20@1 23: Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat $1 15@1 18. Receipts for the last week are 4,345 bushels, against 4,675 the preceding week.

Corn—There is a fair market for corn, but for the last few days a considerable quantity has been put upon the market, and the demand is easily met. We quote shelled steady at 79@80c ₩ bushel for high-mixed and yellow: ear firm at 75@77c. Receipts are 14,700 bushels, against 5,550 for the week previous.

Oats—Continue steady at about previous quotations. Sales have been made at 65@65½c for Ohio white, but for the last day or two the market has been steady at about 65½@66½c for prime white; 63@64c for dark mixed. Receipts are on the increase, being 23,470 bushels this week, against 16,152 bushels the preceding week.

Barley—The receipts have been unusually large being 22,405 for the week, against 5,938 the preceding week. Nearly all of this was consigned to brewers direct having been purchased to arrive, and in Western markets. The market here is quiet and unchanged. We quote at $1 25@1 30 for No. 3 fall; $1 35@1 40 for No. 2 do: $1 50@1 60 for No. 1 do; spring barley is quoted at $1 40@1 50 ₩ bushel.

Rye—There have been average receipts of rye during the past week, amounting to 6,825 bushels. We continue our former quotations at $1 05@1 10 ₩ bushel.

FLOUR—There have been heavy arrivals of flour during the week—12,283 bbls, 8,147 bbls of which were received during the past three days. The market is weak and wholesalers complain of country millers, who they say have been cutting under them by selling to the retail trade of the city, at strongly shaded prices. The following are the wholesale prices of the local millers: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 20 ₩ bbl: No. 1 amber wheat do $6 50; red wheat flour $6 10; in sacks 30c off ₩ bbl. The jobbing prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 00@6 25; Wisconsin $5 75; Minnesota $6 00@6 25; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; rye flour $5 75; Graham flour $6 00; self-raising flour in 6 ℔ packages, $6 25 ₩ doz packages; corn meal, old $3 75; new $3 40@3 50; oat meal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—The market is quiet but steady. The week's receipts are 1,833 bales, against 2,223 bales for the preceding week. We quote prime timothy, on track, at $23 50@24 50 ₩ ton: No. 2 do $20 00@22 00; inferior $15 00@18 00; baled hay from store is quoted at $25 00@26 00. Loose hay is selling at $28 00@30 00 for No. 1; $25 00@27 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $15 00@16 00 ₩ ton.

MILL FEED—Bran is steady at $1 05@1 10 ₩ cwt: shorts at $1 30@1 40 ₩ cwt: middlings $1 55@1 65 ₩ cwt; chopped feed $1 70@1 80 ₩ cwt: oil meal $1 90@2 00 ₩ cwt.

GROCERIES.

The grocery market here shows no particular activity. On the contrary, the demand is rather light, and trade is dull. Prices generally are steady, and in New Orleans molasses there is a firm feeling, with, however, no quotable change. Coffees, with a light stock in first hands, is unchanged, and the demand seems to be as limited as the supply. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees. ₩ ℔		*Spices.*	
Fancy	24½c	Cloves, ₩ ℔	55 c
Choice	23½c	Allspice, ₩ ℔	17½@18½c
Prime	22 c	Casia ₩ ℔	40 @15 c
Good	20 c	Nutmegs, ₩ ℔	$1 35@1 40
Java	33 c	Pepper, ₩ ℔	27 @28 c
Roasted Coffees.		*Molasses.*	
Rio, in papers	26 c	Strictly ch'c N O	80c
Rio, in bulk	25½c	Prime	75c
Java	37 c	Good	70c
Sugars.		*Syrups.*	
Standard A	10⅛c	Ex. white drips	75c
Standard B	10⅜c	Sugar drips	65c
Standard extra C	10⅛c	Lower grades	45@50c
Standard hards	11½c	*Raisins.*	
Franklin extra C	9¾c	Layers, ₩ bx	$3 40
American extra C	9¾c	Valentia, ₩ ℔	11½c
New Orleans	9½@10c	Currants	7½c
Teas.		Prunes	13 @13½
Young Hyson	50c@$1 60	*Starch.*	
Gunpowder	50c@ 1 25	Common	5¼c
Imperial	50c@ 1 00	Silver gloss	9¾c
Japan	55c@ 1 00	Corn	10½c
Oolong	25c@ 85	*Soda.*	
Fancy	1 00	Bi-carb, ₩ 10 ℔ kgs	6c
Souchong	25c@ 80	Bi-carb, ₩ ℔ papers	8c
Rice.		*Candles.*	
Choice Carolina	8¾c	Star, full weight	19c
Patna	7½@8 c	Stearine	15c
Rangoon	7½c		

CANNED GOODS—There is no material change in this market, the demand being fair and prices remaining steady. We quote as follows:

Fruits in Syrups.		2 ℔s Falm'th corn	2 25
2½ ℔s California apricots, ₩ doz	$4 75	3 ℔s golden pumpkins	2 25
2 ℔s blackberries	1 75	2 ℔s green peas	1 75
2 ℔s blueberries	2 25	2 ℔s small peas	2 25
2 ℔s damson plums	2 00	2 ℔s marrowfat peas	2 00
2 ℔s peaches	2 50	2 ℔s tomatoes	1 40
3 ℔s peaches	3 50	3 ℔s do	2 00
3 ℔s peaches, extra	3 75	*Oysters, Salmon, &c.*	
2 ℔s Cal. Bartlett pears	4 75	1 ℔ California salmon	2 50
2 ℔s Bartlett pears	2 50	2 ℔s do do	3 25
2 ℔s pears	2 00	2½ ℔s do do	4 00
2 ℔s pine apples	2 25	1 ℔ spiced salmon	3 25
2 ℔s raspberries	2 50	3 ℔s po do	6 00
2 ℔s strawberries	2 00	1 ℔ cove oysters, full	1 15
2 ℔s white cherries	2 50	2 ℔s do do	2 00
2 ℔s red cherries	2 00	1 ℔ do light	85
2 ℔s grapes	1 75	2 ℔s do do	1 65
2 ℔s gooseberries	1 75	1 ℔ spiced oysters, lunch	1 50
2 ℔s green gages	2 72	2 ℔s do	2 50
Vegetables.		1 ℔ clams	2 25
3 ℔s asparagus	4 00	2 ℔s do	3 25
2 ℔s lima beans	2 25	1 ℔ lobsters	2 15
2 ℔s string beans	1 50	2 ℔s do	3 15
2 ℔s Winslow's green corn	2 60		
2 ℔s Yarm'th corn	2 60		
2 ℔s Baltim're corn	2 00		

FISH—There is a fair demand at prices generally unchanged. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess mackerel ₩ bbl	$25 00	Large do, ₩ 100	$6 50
No. 1 mess do	23 00	Boneless codfish ₩ ℔	8
Extra No. 1 shore	20 00	White fish, ₩ half bbl	6 50
Extra No. 1 bay	15 00	Lake herring, ₩ hf bbl	4 35
No. 1 bay	14 00	Labrador herring ₩ bbl	8 75@9 00
Extra No. 2	14 00	Round do	6 75@7 00
No. 2 bay	12 00		
New No. 3	11 00		
Georges codfish, medium, ₩ 100	6 00		

TOBACCO—The market is firm, and prices are strong. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	57@60c	Rough & Ready	65@85c
Black Navy	52@55c	Fine Cut Plugs	70@80c
Black Tens	54@57c	Fine Cut	55@90c
Black Quarters	54@57c	Cut and Dry	30@40c
Louis'lle Navy	60@65c	Scotch Snuff	65@75c
Louisville Cav	65@67c	Black Snuff	60@85c
Virginia Navy	55@60c	Six Twist	@40c
Virginia Tens	55@61c	Cigars—	
Virginia Cav	56@61c	Penn'a Seed	$13@20
Double Thick	66@62c	Connecticut	25@30
Flounders	60@82c	Seed & Havana	30@26
Bright Pounds	60@ $1	Havana	60@15

CARBON OIL—The market is weak and prices are lower. We quote 10@11c from store; sales of round lots on the cars are made at a reduction from these figures.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

APPLES—The supply continues large and the market has a lower tendency, although holders of choice stock are not disposed to make concessions, as they prefer to hold for better prices. Extra choice apples are quoted at $2 50 ₩ bbl: $2 00@2 25 for choice: $1 25@1 75 for common to medium. On large sales these prices would be shaded. Receipts for the past two weeks are 3,558 bbls.

BUTTER—The demand for the finer grades continues steady, and the stock of such butter is somewhat limited. Common stock, however, is in heavy supply, and dull and weak. We quote at 33@35c ₩ ℔ for extra choice rolls; 30@32c for choice; 20@25c for medium; 12@15c for common.

BEESWAX—Prime yellow beeswax is quoted at 31@33c ₩ ℔, in round lots; sales in a jobbing way are made at 38c ₩ ℔. The market is rather weak with a downward tendency.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Buckwheat flour is rather easy, and in large supply at $3 50 ₩ cwt; $7 00 ₩ bbl; self-raising buckwheat flour is active, and a good jobbing trade is done: we quote in 6 ℔ packages at $4 20 ₩ doz packages.

CHEESE—The market continues steady at about former prices. There is considerable difference as to the stock in first hands, some stating that it is much reduced, while other authorities tell of large stocks held back in first hands to keep the market up. We quote at 17c ₩ ℔ for Ohio factory: New York Goshen 17½@18c; Sweitzer 18@19c ₩ ℔. Receipts the past two weeks were 3,672 boxes.

EGGS—The market is steady, with good fresh selling at 29@30c ₩ doz; pickled 20@25c.

CRANBERRIES—Cranberries are in good supply and prices steady with a fair trade. We quote $8 00@10 00 for Western: $10 00@12 00 for Eastern: $14 00 ₩ barrel for Sackett's.

GAME—The market continues rather slow and draggy, but the cold weather of the past day or two has enlivened the demand somewhat. We look for a better market by the opening of next week. We quote as follows: Venison—saddles 17@18c ₩ ℔; whole deer 10@12c; prairie chickens $3 75@4 00 ₩ doz: pheasants $4 00@4 50 ₩ doz: quail $1 25@1 50 ₩ doz: wild duck $4 00@4 50: rabbits 35@40c ₩ pair: squirrels 25@30c ₩ pair.

HOMINY—The market rules at $5 00 ₩ barrel.

FEATHERS—Are quoted as follows: No. 1, ₩ ℔, 62@65c for round lots; 68@72c in a jobbing way; No. 2, ₩ ℔, 20@50c, as to quality.

HOPS—We quote 1874's 45@50c; 1873's 30@35c; olds 15@22c.

MINCE MEAT—Is quoted at 10c ₩ ℔ in a jobbing way.

NUTS.—Chestnuts are dull and nearly out of market, at about $2 40@2 50 ₩ bushel in round lots; in a jobbing way $2 65@2 75. Peanuts are moderately active in a jobbing way at 7½c for red; 9@10c for white, as to quality. Hickory nuts are quoted at $1 25@1 50 ₩ bushel.

POTATOES—The market is steady with a shade stronger feeling. Sales from store are moderately active at 90@95c ₩ bushel for prime peachblows; medium grades 75@85c ₩ bushel.

POULTRY—The market has a somewhat better feeling, but is still somewhat depressed. We quote at 13@15c ₩ ℔ for turkeys; chickens are in steady demand at 12@14c.

PRESERVES AND DRIED FRUIT—We quote dried apples at 5@6c ₩ ℔; dried blackberries 10c ₩ ℔; dried peaches are quoted at 8@9c ₩ ℔ for choice halves. Apple butter is quoted at 55@65c ₩ gallon; Honey is active and firm at 35c ₩ ℔ for clover; buckwheat blossom 25c ₩ ℔. Medium pickles are quoted at $9 00 ₩ bbl; $5 00 ₩ half barrel.

VEGETABLES—Prime white navy beans are dull and depressed and are quoted at $2 00@2 25 ₩ bushel; medium $1 80@1 90; fair to good $1 50@1 70. Onions are in large supply at $3 50 ₩ bbl. for red; 3 50@4 00 for yellow.

VINEGAR—The market is dull, and there are few sales. We quote in a jobbing way at 13@15c ₩ gallon for prime; inferior 10@12c.

PROVISIONS.

The home market continues fairly active and as the new crop has not yet been largely brought into this market, prices have been in the main tolerably well sustained. Under the influence of heavy receipts during the last day or two, the market assumed a rather weaker feeling and prices though not quotably changed, were somewhat easier. The tendency of the general market throughout the country is downward under the influence of the extraordinarily large stock of hogs, been brought into market for packing purposes, in response to the high prices offering. The circular of Eggleston, Hennes & Co., says: "The figures indicate a steady accumulation of stocks here and show a decrease of about 60 per cent. in foreign exports during last month, against those of the same time in 1873. We are aware that the early distribution of product is not decisive, and that the average price of the crop depends upon the total supply, compared with the total requirements of consumption. Until that question is now approximately solved, it will be difficult to reconcile the legitimate trade with prevailing prices, which sanguine speculation—always prone to underestimate a crop in this country—has done its share to bring to a wavering point."

BACON—The market is easy. We quote shoulders at 10¼@10½c ₩ ℔: rib sides are quoted at 14@14½c; clear rib sides 14¾c: clear sides 15c. The stock of all grades of sides is very light.

HAMS—There is a fair supply, and prices are unchanged. We quote plain sugar cured at 14c ₩ ℔, and firm at quotations. Shoulders are scarce at 11c ₩ ℔; breakfast bacon is quoted at 13½@14c; dried beef 14½@15c; beef tongues, per dozen, $7 50.

MESS PORK—The market is strong and prices are steady. We quote at $22 50 ₩ bbl.

LARD—There is a fair amount of lard coming in and the market is steady. We quote prime lard, refined for summer use, in tierces, ₩ ℔, 15c; half bbls do 15½c; buckets, do 16c: in 3-℔ caddies, do 17¾c; in 5-℔ caddies do, 17¼c: in 3-℔ pails, do 18c; in 5-℔ pails, do 17¾c; in 6-℔ do, 17½c.

LARD OIL—There is rather a slack inquiry for lard oil, and we quote extra No. 1 winter strained at $1 07@1 10 ₩ gallon.

TALLOW—Sales at 8@9c ₩ ℔ for choice, and 7@7½c for medium. Demand good and market firm.

DRESSED HOGS—The supply is fair, and prices are tending downward. We quote at 7½@8c ₩ ℔.

The foreign exports of hog product from October 28, 1874, compared with the same period of the preceding year, are as follows:

	1874.	1873.
Pork, bbls	17,725	32,088
Lard, ℔s	11,595,893	17,539,813
Meats, ℔s	18,973,238	51,844,806
Total in pounds	33,036,280	55,709,884

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALES—We quote: X $9 00 ₩ barrel; XX $10 00 ₩ barrel; India ale $11 00 ₩ barrel; Bass' English ale, in kilderkins of 22 gallons, $24 00@25 00; barrels, 41 gallons, $40 00@41 00; hhds, 68 gallons, $62 50@65 00; in cases, 4 dozen bottles, $20 75. William Younger's India pale ale, in cases of eight dozen bottles, $2 75@3 00 ₩ doz.; Robert Younger's sparkling ale, $2 75@3 00 ₩ dozen; Guinness' stouts, bottled by A. Burke, $2 75@3 00 ₩ dozen; Cantrell & Coobrane's ginger ale $2 75 ₩ dozen; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale $1 75 ₩ dozen. The market is much depressed, and trade continues dull.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Sales as follows: ¼ ℔ cans $1 50 ₩ doz; ½ ℔ cans $3 00; 1 ℔ cans $5 50: 5 ℔ cans $26 00; 10 ℔ boxes 40c ₩ ℔. Market steady and demand good.

COKE—Trade continues dull, and prices are unchanged at $2 50@2 75 ₩ ton, delivered free on cars in Pittsburgh.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—The market is quiet. We quote alcohol at $2 12@2 25 ₩ gall. Highwines are steady at $1 03@1 05 ₩ gall.

ASHES—The trade in ashes is very dull, and so little is doing that quotations are virtually nominal. Soda ashes, refined, $4 00@4 50 ₩ cwt. for high test; common $3 00@3 25; black lead $5 00; arsenic $5 00; potash $8 50; pearl ash $9 00; nitrate of soda $3 50@3 75.

CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25 ₩ bbl; Phœnix hydraulic cement $2 00@2 27 ₩ bbl; Rosedale cement $3 50@4 00; Youghiogheny $1 75@2 00; Portland cement $7 50@8 00.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Quotations are given at $7 55@8 00 for best quality; second quality $7 50@7 75.

PAPERS—Baling papers 4@8c ₩ ℔, as to quality: manilla 7@12c: hardware papers 6@12c: bag wrapping 4½@4¾c: felt papers, 4@4¾c, straw news 7@11c; rag news 12½@13c; book papers 5@18c ₩ ℔.

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $6 00 ₩ gross.

RAGS—Cotton at 2½@3c ₩ ℔; and woolen, at 3¼c.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $6 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—Car lots, ₩ bbl, $1 60; jobbing lots $1 80@1 85.

STAVES AND COOPERAGE—The market is steady. Staves matched with heading are quoted at $30 00 ₩ thousand; city made barrels are quoted at $1 40@1 45; country at $1 30@1 35; kegs, 5 gallon, $1 00 10 gallon, $1 25; half barrels $1 50.

BENT WORK—Bent rims, 1½ to 1¼ inch, F set, $8 25; 1⅜ inch, $ 40; 1½ inch $1 50; 1¾ inch, $1 85; 1⅞ inch, $2 00; 2 inch, $2 75; 2¼ inch, $3 00. Spokes—XX hickory, 1 to 2 inch, ₩ set $3 00; * * * do, 1 to 2 inch, $3 75@4 00. Oak, XXX, 2¼ inch and under, ₩ set, $3 50; 1⅛ to 3 inch, $4 50; 3¼ to 3½ inch, $5 50. Shafts, unfinished, $7 50@10 00 ₩ dozen pair; finished, $10 50@15 00. Poles, unfinished, $9 00@15 00 ₩ dozen; finished, $15 00@21 00.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
THURSDAY, December 10, 1874.

The improved feeling in the markets for petroleum continues. The export demand at the East is strong, and the large quantities sent to the interior of Europe during the past two or three months have, under light importations, materially reduced the stocks in the principal ports, and the effect of the reduction of stocks is seen in an increased demand for export from the United States. Owing to the late low prices for refined at New York, Philadelphia and other Eastern ports, shipments of refined to them have been very moderate, and now, when the export demand is reviving somewhat, those places are almost bare of stock, nor are the quantities on the way to them at all large. Though the stock of crude in the oil region has, without doubt, increased during the past two months, yet, on account of a slightly more favorable lookout in regard to production and the advancing tendency of prices in the outside markets, holders are very firm. There was no change in the prices of crude yesterday, but the market was steady at former prices. Refined was also firm, and Philadelphia and New York deliveries were somewhat stronger.

CRUDE.

We quote United, at wells, at 57¼@60c; immediate shipment 80. Sales of 20,000 bbls are reported from Parkers.

REFINED.

The market continues strong, with a fair demand for eastward shipment. We quote at 9@9½c for standard white on the cars.

New York—Refined is quoted at 11¼@11½c for spot.

Philadelphia—Spot refined rules at 11¼@11¾c.

OIL BARRELS

are lower at $1 30@1 35 for city made; $1 20@1 25 for country do.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

TITUSVILLE, December 9.—The *Courier* says: The market is almost entirely speculative and tankers are the principal buyers. Buyers and sellers are generally 1¼@2½c apart in views. Sales:

2,060 bbls, upper road, spot	82½c
1,500 bbls, upper road, spot	81½c
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	83½c
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	82½c
5,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	81½c
8,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells	61½c
4,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells	60 c
4,000 bbls, Parkers, United, immed'te shipment	81½c
4,000 bbls, Parkers, United, immed'te shipment	80 c

NEW YORK, December 9, closing 8.—Higher prices are again quotable with the demand more urgent. Crude in bulk is quoted at 5¾c; refined—sales of 2,000 bbls; 11¼c bid, with 11½c asked; cases 16¼@16¾c for shipment: naphtha 10¼@10¾c. Philadelphia delivery firmer, with sales of 3,000 bbls refined at 11c.

PARKERS, December 9.—Immediate shipment 80c bid; United 57½c at wells. Market quiet.

TITUSVILLE, December 9.—Market quiet and steady; quoted at 80@81½c.

OIL CITY, December 9.—Market dull at 80c.

TIDIOUTE, December 9.—Market steady and higher at 50c bid at wells.

ROUSEVILLE, December 9.—Market quiet and firm at 75c.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 9.—Market quiet and firm at 70@75c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 9.—Market steady: S. W. 11½@11¾c; crude 8¼c in barrels; cases 16½c: sales none and futures not quoted.

HOP MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

December 5.—There is more demand from brewers, and the market for prime grades hardens, with stocks of such held with much confidence; the sales aggregate about 400 bales at 35@50c, as to quality. The exports the past week or two have been restricted, owing to the impediments in shipping facilities; more movement is looked for next week. The receipts so far this season have been very much larger than up to the same time last year, but the free export movement leaves but a moderate stock. The following is from Emmet Wells' circular of the 4th inst.:

	Bales.
Receipts for the week	2,160
Total receipts since September 1, 1874	9,603
Total receipts for same period in 1873	9,916
Exports last week	53
Total exports (new hops) since September 1st, 1874	9,164

The Cooperstown *Journal* says: The dealers have bought what they could during the past week at full rates, 42@45 cents. It will require 50 cents to buy some of the choicest lots still in the hands of growers. Some dealers are selling hops to their customers at lower rates than they will be likely to replace them a few weeks hence: but that will not long continue.—*Commercial List.*

PHILADELPHIA.

For prime grades the demand is quite good, but other kinds are inactive. We quote:

American crop, 1874	38@48c
American crop, 1873	15@25c
American crop, 1872	12@15c
Olds, all growths	8@12c
Foreign, 1873	18@25c
Californias, 1874	40@48c

Coal at New Orleans.

The following is a list of the coal on hand at the Willow Grove Coal Landing, New Orleans, November 30, 1874:

	Boats.	Barges.	Hulls.
F. Fawcett & Sons	17	..	1
Horner & Sons	4	..	..
R. J. Connell	2	..	..
William Neel	2	..	..
P. & R. DeVerges	1	..	..
N. O. Gas Lighting Co	15	..	..
J. Walton & Co	16	..	..
Neil & Oliver	14	..	..
G. Lysle & Son	10	1	..
Crescent City Company	9	..	..
Riddle, Coleman & Co	3	..	..
R. Burdean	4	..	..
Grand Lake Company	1	..	..
G. Lynn & Son	3	..	..
Morgan S. S. Line	2	..	..
J. Kountz & Co	2	..	..
N. J. Bigley	2	..	..
H. & C. Tyler	1	..	..
J. D. Maclin	1	..	..
J. F. Dravo	..	2	..
O'Neill & Co	7	..	..
Owens & English	1	..	..
Galveston Gas Light Co	1	..	..
W. G. Wilmot & Co	2	..	..
Total	120	3	1

The amount of coal sold during November was twenty-seven boats, or about 600,000 bushels.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, December 9.—Cotton quiet at 13⅜c. Flour steady with a moderate demand. Wheat active at $1 12@1 14. Corn steady at 73@75c. Oats active at 58@62c. Rye firm at $1 08@1 10. Barley—demand good at full prices. Linseed oil easier at 78c. Butter, eggs and cheese firm and unchanged. Pork dull and unsettled; sales at $19 50 spot; $20 00 seller February. Lard active; sales of steam at 12¾@12⅞c spot; closing at 12½c bid. Bulkmeats dull; shoulders 6⅞c; clear rib nominally 9¾@9⅞c; clear 10@10⅛c. Bacon dull and nominal at 9¾@12⅜@13¼c. Green meats lower; shoulders 6¼@6½c; sides 9¼c; hams 10¼@10¾c. Whisky—demand good at full prices—99c.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1874.

THE trade in whisky has not been affected by the hard times apparently. The production at Cincinnati for 1874 is 60,000 gallons ahead of last year.

HUDSON, N. Y., which gave 300 Democratic majority in November, elected a Republican Mayor on the 1st inst. by 200 majority. Has the reaction set in already?

THE aggregate value of petroleum exported during the past year, was $45,930,367, against $33,761,687 in 1872, and $36,454,482 the year before—making a total for three years of $116,146,536, all of which is so much gain to the general wealth of the country.

MR. EDWARD EHLERS, the Democratic Treasurer of the Democratic county of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a defaulter. If he had been a Republican, we should never hear the last of it; but as he was only a Democrat, it seems to be regarded as a matter of course.

NORTH CAROLINA, under Democratic management, is drifting rapidly into repudiation. Her Legislature proposes to issue new bonds for the old ones at rates varying from 12½ to 25 cents on the dollar. When the new bonds have been issued a year or two, she can also repudiate them.

COMMODITIES to the value of $1,928,054 were shipped from Philadelphia to foreign ports during the month of November, carried abroad in sixty-one vessels, of which number twenty-one sailed under our national colors. Included in these shipments were 4,066,750 gallons of petroleum.

A LATE report of the business of the New York Clearing House for the year ending September 30, shows an immense decrease in speculative business in that city as compared with former years, the falling off this year, as compared with last year, amounting to forty per cent. So much the safer. The prudent man taketh heed unto his steps.

THE marine tonnage of the several cities of the country is given by the reports just published at Washington, as follows:

New York	1,012,745	Baltimore	121,187
Philadelphia	363,542	Oswego	112,875
Boston	274,941	Pittsburgh	103,895
Bath	125,915	Portland	101,832
San Francisco	124,955	Chicago	85,971
Buffalo	100,819	Waldoboro	100,643
St. Louis	121,698		

The tonnage of the lakes is 758,838, and that of the Western rivers 373,464.

THE total importations of dry goods at New York for the past eleven months of the year, are about nine millions below the figures for the corresponding period of last year, and upwards of twenty-nine millions below the aggregate for the first eleven months of 1872. Good. There is no more valid reason why we should not manufacture our own clothing, than there is that we should not raise our own food supplies.

ACCORDING to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, a successful smoke-preventer has at length been contrived and put into extensive operation in that city. It is said not only to prevent smoke, but also to save fuel, and is described as being at once cheap and simple. The *Gazette* predicts that Cincinnati will soon be free from the smoke nuisance, although we do understand that any of its newspapers are going to pull up stakes.

A WRITER in the Cincinnati *Commercial* from Ashland, Kentucky, mentions a singular fatality to grasshoppers and potato bugs from the concussion of gun firing. A salute was found to have killed almost every bug and grasshopper, in a "field literally covered with bugs," for quite a distance. If the late Democratic victory had only happened in bug-time, now, it would have been of some use. The subsequent gun-firing would then have killed the bugs over a very large extent of country.

WHILST a number of the vessels of the North Germans are in the market for sale, and the builders on the Clyde begin to apprehend evil days, the Delaware River Iron Shipbuilding and Engine Works have just concluded contracts for the construction of five new iron steamships. More and more clearly it is becoming apparent that American vessels can successfully compete with those of foreign construction on their individual merits, irrespective of any other consideration.

MR. WICKHAM, the Mayor-elect of New York, had himself sworn in on the first instant, a month ahead of the time at which he takes office; and it is supposed that he hurried up the operation because the new amendments to the State Constitution, just adopted, require all officers to swear that they used no money corruptly to secure their election. As the Tammany candidate could not take that oath, he prudently anticipated events and got himself sworn in before the vote for the Constitutional amendments was announced.

THE Democratic leaven is working. Charges of malfeasance in office have just been preferred against a brace of prominent politicians of that faith, municipal office-holders in Indianapolis, one of whom used up the material of the city in building private premises, while the other has failed to account for certain moneys received by him for the city. The local Democratic press thinks they were small peccadilloes, and perhaps they were; but, then, what a plastic aptitude for the higher ranges and larger fields of Democratic statemanship they indicate!

THE Indiana judges say, "The Fourteenth Amendment does not delegate to Congress the right to interfere with the institutions of States which rest where they always have rested—with the States themselves." The Constitution itself, however, provides that its provisions shall be "the supreme law of the land," and that "*the judges in every State shall be bound thereby,* ANYTHING IN THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF ANY STATE TO THE CONTRARY *notwithstanding.*" The Fourteenth Amendment is a part of the Constitution, and the Indiana judges are therefore bound by it, "*anything in the Constitution of their State to the contrary notwithstanding.*"

WE HAVE already mentioned the fact that by the employment of steam on the New York canals, grain was transported from Buffalo to tidewater at a cost of four mills per ton per mile, against one cent per ton per mile by railroad. It is now predicted that the introduction of steam barges on the lakes will eventually reduce the rates for carrying wheat from Chicago to Buffalo to four and a half cents; and that the tolls from Buffalo to New York will be again decreased five cents by the employment of steam on the canal—making a total reduction per bushel of wheat of from ten to fifteen cents. If this is not cheap transportation, it would be difficult to tell what is.

MAJOR J. G. BEALE, of Armstrong county, who was in the city, yesterday, is a candidate for Congress in the Twenty-third Congressional district, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. E. McJUNKIN. The old Twenty-third district, in which this election will be held, consists of Armstrong and Butler counties, and that part of Allegheny county north of the Allegheny river. The election is to be held on Tuesday, December 22d. Maj. BEALE is an active Republican, a native of this county, and would make a good Representative. We presume that the Conferees formerly appointed, and who nominated Mr. McJUNKIN in 1872, will meet and make a nomination to fill this vacancy.

A PATENT for a new process for manufacturing steel has, we learn, just been granted to parties at Atlanta, Georgia, by which, it is claimed, an article fully equal, if not superior to Bessemer steel is produced, at a greatly reduced cost. The manufacture of steel by this process is not, it appears, confined to rails alone, but any and all kinds of steel can be made, from the lowest to the highest quality, and at a cost of only four dollars additional on the price of iron; thus reducing the price of steel rails from $130 per ton to about $70 per ton. By the process, too, it is claimed, all "converters" and complicated costly machinery are done away with. Steel made by this new process, when worn out, can also, it is stated, be re-rolled as easily as if it were iron. If the facts are as asserted, the invention is likely to prove of very great importance.

FERNANDO WOOD says he does not care about the moral character of any one proposed as the Democratic candidate for Speaker of the next House of Representatives; all that he will ask as a prerequisite is evidence of the candidate's ability to carry his party through successfully. "I do not care," he says, "what the antecedents of a candidate may be. It is too large a question to base on mere personality; find a man who is equal to the task and put him at it. I don't care whether such a man drinks whisky, plays poker, or pockets his back pay. If he can take the party through the next Congress and can keep down the opposition by developing all their misdeeds and keep the standard of his own party high, he will have my support most heartily, whether he be from the East, the West, the North, or the South." The idea that a drunkard, gambler and backpayster can "keep the standard of his own party high" is a very poor compliment to the "standard." Mr. WOOD may think such a man capable of appreciating a standard which *he* calls "high," but no one else will be likely to apply that adjective to it.

ACCORDING to the report of the Comptroller of the Currency, the profits or net earnings of the national banks, for the year ending September 1, 1874, averaged less than ten per cent. The ratio of net earnings to capital and surplus in 1869 was six per cent. for six months. It fell to exactly five per cent. for the six months ending March 1, 1872, rose again to 5.46 per cent. for the six months ending September 1, 1873, and has since been 4.82 per cent. for the six months ending March 1, 1874, and 4.86 per cent. for the six months ending September 1, 1874, or 9.68 per cent. for the twelve months. According to the September return, 1,971 banks, with a capital of $489,938,284, and surplus of $128,364,039, declared dividends of $24,929,307, or 5.09 per cent. on capital, and 4.03 per cent. on capital and surplus, and had net earnings of $30,036,811, which is 4.86 per cent. of capital and surplus. This, however, is a general average. In Oregon the net earnings for the six months ending September 1, were 10.1 per cent. During the latter period, also, the earnings of the banks in Idaho were 18.3 per cent., and during the six months ending March 1 they were 21.5 per cent. On the other hand, in Montana they were less than 1 per cent. for the later six months, and in South Carolina less than 3 per cent., in the State of New Jersey only 3½ per cent., in the State of Arkansas only 3.8 per cent. These were the principal places in which a rate lower than the average prevailed.

EVIDENTLY there is not much the matter with the West. The cashier of the Chicago Stock Yards National bank is reported as saying that the pork packers of that city have already paid out, according to the actual figures on the books of the bank, the enormous sum of $10,000,000 for hogs packed there since the beginning of the season on the first of last month. Besides this, it is estimated that at least $4,000,000 more have been paid in the same time by Chicago shippers for live hogs to forward to the East. Including the October packing and shipping, there can hardly have been less than $15,000,000 paid out at the stock yards for hogs since the middle of October. Estimating the Chicago packing and shipping at one-half of all that is done in that line in the Western States, it gives the grand total of $30,000,000 paid out for hogs in the West within the last fifty days, the greatest part of which has been paid to farmers in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Add to this the fact that these States will have received several millions of dollars more for corn in 1874 than they ever received in any previous year, and it must be apparent to all that the West is really growing rich.

PERSONAL.

In Dublin, Cardinal Cullen has been publicly denouncing Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the revivalists, whom he accuses of being only "roving minstrels or speculating travelers."

In the Jefferson county, West Virginia Circuit Court, last Monday, Daniel Ames, formerly Mayor of Harper's Ferry, obtained a divorce from Mary Clemmer Ames, the literary celebrity, who is now residing in Washington.

Brigham Young's poor health is thus pleasantly alluded to by the Salt Lake *Tribune*: "Age and disease, aggravated by the reflections of an ill-spent life, have notified this old, bad man that his sands have run the course of wickedness."

John McArthur, Jr., of Philadelphia, to whom the position of Supervising Architect has been tendered, has had the superintendence of the construction of the Philadelphia Court House and Post Office. He has an excellent reputation as an architect, and his plans for the Centennial Exposition buildings were considered among the verybest that were offered.

Apropos of the fifteenth anniversary of the execution of John Brown, which occurred on Wednesday, December 2, when Governor Wise, who is still alive, told him he had better prepare for death, his reply was: "Governor, you do well to advise me to prepare for death; but, although you have fifteen years, perhaps, to live longer than I, you have as much need of that hint as I have myself."

A Chicagoan named Frank Henry Follansbee, has been complaining at one of the London police courts that he has been victimized by a "confidence man" in London out of $2,500. This is the oddest thing we have heard for a long time. A full-grown Chicagoan who has not yet cut his eye teeth, and can thus be taken in by a common London sharper, is a *lusus naturæ* worthy of the immediate attention of Barnum.

Herr L. C. Dudek de Wit, a cultivated foreigner, who has a passion for traversing continents on foot, has arrived in Chicago. He has just finished a brief journey from New York to that city, and will leave in a few days for San Francisco, as usual, on foot. Her Dudek de Wit is a polished and wealthy gentleman of the Dutch persuasion, and as his time is his own, he employs it in this odd manner in viewing the sights of the country.

Toole, the English comedian, had a recent experience in Washington regarding oysters, which is exceedingly amusing. A well known Washington wag, with a few friends was "showing him the sights," and in the course of their rambles they naturally drifted down to the river's side, where the oyster boats are moored. Toole, desirous to do the "handsome thing," invited his friends "to try an oyster, you know." Certainly, of course they would, and they did. Toole, according to the informant, must have put about six dozen of the bivalves "out of sight," and his companions were not far behind in doing full justice to the invitation extended them. When the feast was ended Toole, turning to the colored man who opened the oysters for them, inquired, "What's the damage, waiter?" The darkey, who already had had the wink, replied, "Nothing, sah." "God bless my soul!" exclaimed the comedian. "Oh," said his friend, "they never charge for oysters eaten at the wharf. They give them away here. It's one of the customs of the country." "God bless my soul," cried the actor in wonder, "it's a wonder the 'ole town isn't down 'ere, you know."

The Religion that is Needed.

Evidently the *Christian* has seen something of the world, or it never could have found out so many sins that need to be preached against as it condenses in a few paragraphs. "We want a religion," it says, "that banishes small measures from the counters, small baskets from the stalls, sand from the sugar, chiccory from the coffee, alum from the bread, and water from the milk-cans. The religion that is to save the world will not put all the big strawberries on the top, and all the little ones at the bottom. It will not make one-half a pair of shoes of good leather, so that the first shall redound to the maker's credit, and the second to his cash. It will not put Jouvin's stamp on Jenkin's kid gloves; or make Paris bonnets in the back room of a Boston millinery shop; nor all-wool delaines, and all-linen handkerchiefs be amalgamated with clandestine cotton; nor coats made of old rags pressed together be sold to an unsuspecting public for real broadcloth. It does not put bricks at $5 a thousand into chimneys it contracts to build with $7 material; nor smuggle white pine into floors that have paid for hard pine; nor leave yawning cracks in closets where boards ought to join; nor make window blinds of slats that cannot stand the wind and paint that cannot stand the sun, and fastenings that may be looked at, but on no account touched. The religion that is going to sanctify the world pays its debts. It does not consider that 40 cents returned from 100 cents given is according to the Gospel, though it may be according to law. It looks on a man who has failed in trade, and who continues to live in luxury, as a thief."

Whose Boy is That?

He may be seen any day, in almost any part of the village; he never makes room for you on the sidewalk, looks at you saucily and swears smartly if asked anything; he is very impudent, and often vulgar, to ladies who pass; he delights in frightening and sometimes does serious injury to little boys and girls; he lounges at the street corners, and is the first arrival at a dog fight or any other sport or scrape; he crowds into the postoffice in the evening, and multiplies himself and his antics at such a rate that people having legitimate business are crowded out; he thinks himself very sharp, he is certainly very noisy; he can smoke and chew tobacco now and then, and rip out an oath most any time; we ask whose boy he is? Mother, is he yours? We think he is, for there are many good qualities in the lad, and we do not think that you know what he does on the street. Look after him, mother; keep him more at home. Train him and you will have a son to be proud of.

THE TREASURY.

Abstract of the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the Year Ending June 30, 1874.

RECEIPTS.

From Customs	$163,103,833 00
From Internal Revenue	102,409,784 00
From tax on National Banks	7,030,038 00
From interest on Pacific Railway	1,028,895 00
From premium on sales of coin	5,037,665 00
From proceeds on Alabama Claims	15,500,000 00
From bank redemption fund not expended	17,207,475 00
Miscellaneous	10,868,541 00
Balance in Treasury June 30, 1873	131,179,337 00
Total	$453,365,568 00

EXPENDITURES.

For civil expenses	$ 17,627,115 00
For foreign intercourse	1,508,064 27
For Indians	6,692,462 09
For pensions	29,038,414 66
For military establishment, including fortifications, river and harbor improvements and arsenals	42,313,927 22
For naval establishment, including vessels and machinery, and improvements at navy yards	30,932,587 42
For miscellaneous, civil, including public buildings, light-houses, and collecting the revenue	50,506,414 25
For interest on the public debt	107,119,815 21
Premium on bonds purchased	1,395,073 55
Award of Geneva tribunal investment account	$ 15,500,000 00
Total net disbursements	$302,633,873 76
Balance in Treasury June 30, 1874	150,731,694 63
Total	$453,365,568 39

It will be seen by this statement that the net revenues for the fiscal year were	$289,478,756 06
And the ordinary expenses	287,133,873 76
Leaving a surplus revenue of	$ 2,344,882 30

The receipts for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, ending September 30, 1874, were $80,884,286; the expenditures during the same period were $85,313,489. For the remainder of the year it is estimated that the receipts will be $203,434,000, and the expenditures $190,002,000.

For the current fiscal year, from the foregoing account of actual receipts and expenditures for the first quarter, and of the estimates of the same for the remaining three quarters, the estimates being based on the assumption that Congress will not increase the expenditures by deficiency or other appropriations, it is expected that the revenues will amount to $284,318,285 90, and that the ordinary expenses will be $275,315,489 42; which will leave a surplus revenue of $9,002,796 57 to be applied to the sinking fund.

The sum of $31,000,545 will be required under the law for this fund, and, therefore, unless the revenues shall increase beyond the amount anticipated, there will be a deficiency in the sinking fund account for this year of $22,003,748 43.

For the year ending June 30, 1876, the estimated receipts are $293,000,000, and the estimated expenditures for the same period $272,778,000, which will leave a surplus of $20,222,000, the amount necessary for the sinking fund, which is not included in the estimated expenditures, is $32,140,414.

REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

During the fiscal year the public debt was reduced by the sum of $5,762,447 65.

REFUNDING THE NATIONAL DEBT.

On assuming charge of this Department, June 3, 1874, the Secretary found the balance of the five per cent. loan authorized by the acts of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, then unissued, to be $178,548,300.

During the month of June proposals were received from several parties desiring to negotiate these bonds, but they were not deemed satisfactory, and were consequently declined.

On the second day of July a circular was issued by the Secretary, inviting proposals, and in response thereto bids from various parties at home and abroad, were received, the aggregate amount of which was $75,933,550. Of this amount, $20,933,550 comprised the domestic bids, and $55,000,000 the joint proposal of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, of London, and Messrs. J. and W. Seligman & Co., of New York. The domestic bids at par and above, which were accepted by the Department, aggregated $10,113,550, and those at less than par, which were rejected, amounted to $10,820,000.

The proposal for $55,000,000 excluded the acceptance of all other bids, and provided that the parties should purchase ten million on or before August 1, 1874, and the remaining $45,000,000 at their pleasure, in several successive instalments, prior to February 1, 1875; also that they should have the option of the entire balance of the five per cent. loan, $122,688,550, until the expiration of six months from January 31, 1875, and that the Secretary should keep an agent in London to deliver new fives and receive payment therefor. This proposition was modified, and on the 28th day of July a contract was entered into between the Sec-

STATE NEWS.

Allentown's taxable property is assessed at $11,000,000.

Religious revivals are reported in four churches in Reading.

Glamorgan furnace, at Lewistown is to be blown out in a few days.

A brewery is to be erected in the local option stronghold of Blairsville.

The Citizens' bank in Philadelphia will be wound up by the directors.

Over 200 new buildings have been erected in Pottsville during the present year.

The Etna and Onondaga iron companies, of New Castle, have been consolidated.

There is one whisky-shop for every seven adult citizens at the Summit, Cambria county.

A man named Laggan has been sent to the Luzerne jail for collecting a bill with a revolver.

A Moravian church, in Lancaster, has celebrated its one hundred and twenty-eighth anniversary.

The Philadelphia mint coined 2,839,888 pieces during November, of an aggregate value of $594,940.

The Pottstown Iron Company commenced during the past week to make pressed point clinch nails.

A five year old Harrisburg boy made one hundred and twenty-six in a match game of ten-pins a few days ago.

John Day, a young man, shot and killed himself while hunting, near Wellsboro, Tioga county, a few days ago.

James Mayes, a deaf mute, dropped dead on the road near Boalsburg, Centre county, on Thanksgiving day.

A colored man in Ebensburg has enjoyed an uninterrupted "snooze" for a week, and was still snoring at last accounts.

The receipts for tickets on the occasion of the recent meeting of the Bucks county teachers' institute amounted to $931 50.

The plate mills of the Pottstown Iron Company manufactured six hundred tons of plate iron during the past four weeks.

It is said that there are more persons out of employment in the State of Pennsylvania at the present time than ever before.

The M'Kean and Buffalo Railroad, intended to tap the coal region in M'Kean county, is being steadily pushed forward.

Those who are fortunate enough to handle $10 bills, should beware of counterfeit tens on the First National bank of Philadelphia.

Two hunters of Lancaster shot one hundred and fifty-seven partridges in Dauphin county from Thursday to Saturday last week.

Luzerne county claims to have the shortest will on record. This is the document: "Emily B. Miner is my heir. Sarah K. Miner."

Titusville thieves not only carry off all the week's "wash," but steal the clothes-lines. Now who will argue against total depravity?

An addition is in course of erection to the steel blooming mill of the Cambria Works. It will be large enough to accommodate another furnace.

A West Chester German undertook to pick a cartridge to pieces with a penknife, and he is one finger and a quantity of eyebrows short.

Many of the log jobbers, says the Clearfield *Journal*, have all their logs out and are ready for the teams to go to work. They are only waiting on snow.

An unknown man dislocated his neck by jumping from a train of cars at North East, Erie county, on last Monday. He died in two hours after the accident.

Fred. Lauer sold during the year ending October 1, 1874, fifteen thousand barrels of beer, or twice as much as he sold the previous year when there was no panic.

The Sheriff will sell the Barree Forge property, Huntingdon county, at public sale on the 22d inst. Besides the works, it comprises 9,286 acres of farm and mountain lands.

A daughter of Silas Strickler, of Newmanstown, Berks county, was burned to death at school on Monday of last week. She was playing near the stove, when her clothes caught fire.

Mr. Henry Allen died at his residence in Harris township, Centre county, last week, aged ninety-eight years. He had been a resident of the county for more than half a century.

A lad named Schwyndenberger, aged eight years, was drowned at Wilkesbarre on the 3rd inst. Had he been saved from a watery fate, his name would probably have finished him.

At a meeting of the book trade in Philadelphia, 20 per cent. was fixed upon as the maximum rate of discount on purchases of books made for libraries, schools, teachers and professional men.

A misunderstanding on the question of wages caused the men at the Birdsboro, Berks county, puddle mill to quit work on Monday last, and three hundred workmen are lying idle in consequence.

John Bonnel, of Watson township, Lycoming county, died on the 22d inst., at the advanced age of ninety-five years, five months and twelve days. He was probably the oldest native resident of the county.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, in connection with the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroads, has reduced the freights on lumber from Williamsport fifteen per cent. on former rates.

Mr. Richard Rogers, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, residing in Phœnixville, is now ninety-five years of age, and is still active and vigorous. He has been a minister of the gospel for more than half a century.

William Kupp, aged twenty-one years, died near Douglassville, Berks county, on the 2d inst., quite suddenly. He weighed four hundred and fifty pounds, and was probably the largest man in the United States.

Besides a son of Gen. George Meade being an employee in the offices of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at Altoona, there is also a nephew of Gen. McClellan, and a son of Admiral Sands holding similar positions.

The Warren *Ledger* says that half the working population of that county are out of work. And the *Ledger* is a Democratic paper, and it is only a month since the great Democratic victory which was to usher in "good times."

Hunters are having fine sport in Forest county. Robert Guyton has killed eleven bears thus far this season; Daniel Black has slain eleven deer; William Felton killed seven deer in two days, while others have had almost equal success.

What is Scranton coming to? The Mayor of the city has been arrested on a charge of perjury. A. C. Ferber, the Chief of Police, and two of his officers, Jacob Ferber and J. H. Schlager, are charged with murdering Michael Kearney on the 14th of November.

The Building Inspectors of Philadelphia issued 250 permits for new buildings during the month of November. Of this number 132 were for two-story dwellings, and 109 for three-story dwellings, showing that our sister city is in no danger of losing her right to be called the "city of homes."

The Waynesburg *Republican* calls its non-paying subscribers "capacious-brained and liberal-hearted delinquents," and informs them that they will have to do without the news, as the publisher does not propose to pay Uncle Sam in advance for carrying to them two dollars' worth of newspapers for which they will never pay. Sensible.

The Titusville *Herald* says: "Oleomargarine butter created a great excitement about six months ago; now we have oleomargarine cheese, which is said to be superior in flavor and richness to the ordinary article. Can't we utilize petroleum for some such purpose? It is the cheapest oil on the planet."

Frank McGill and Tim Hartigan, Mercer county boys, went hunting, the other day, and "treed" a rabbit in a hollow log. McGill manipulated an ancient shot-gun at one end of the log, while Tim looked in at the other to see what effect the lead would have on the cotton-tail. Tim's eyes escaped, but the physician thinks there won't be much nose to speak of when the leaden pellets are all picked out.

Joseph F. Brawn, of Altoona, made a sad mistake while out hunting on Brush Mountain, on Saturday morning. Seeing "something black," as he states, which he took for a deer, he fired at it, and instantly killed a young man named John Thompson, of Blair Furnace. An inquest was held, and the jury returned a verdict exonerating Braun from all blame in the unfortunate matter. He, however, feels much distressed, and, it is feared, will lose his reason.

Jacob Hammersly, of Kettle creek, Lycoming county, is a "mighty hunter." He has killed eight bears thus far this season. He is sixty years old, and commenced his career as a trapper when thirteen years of age, since which time he has killed upwards of three hundred deer, five elk, one hundred and ten bears, forty-eight foxes, and over forty catamounts. He is still an accurate marksman, having within the past few weeks shot out the eye of a pheasant at a distance of forty yards.

While Mrs. Henry Webster, of Cussewago, Crawford county, was absent from the room a few moments, on Saturday, her youngest child, a bright boy of fifteen months old, fell head foremost into a pail of boiling water. The cries of the child recalled the mother, but before it had extricated itself from the pail it had been fatally scalded. It lingered in great agony about ten hours, when death put an end to its sufferings.

The Health Officer of Philadelphia, Mr. Addicks, has announced that henceforth he will enforce the law which imposes a fine of fifty dollars upon "every person practicing physic" in the city who fails to make a report in writing to him of all cases of pestilential or contagious diseases under the physician's care. The diseases specially mentioned in connection with this order are Asiatic cholera, relapsing fever, yellow fever, typhus or ship fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis or spotted fever, smallpox and varioloid, scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Chauncey Goodrich, a man fifty years old, living about six miles from Erie, died in the snow storm on Monday night, 30th ult. He was in Erie on Monday afternoon, and started home in the evening. As he did not reach home Monday night, search was made for him throughout Tuesday, but without result. Wednesday morning, the snow being thawed, he was found partially buried in a drift in a fence corner, about a quarter of a mile from his home. He had probably floundered about, blinded by the whirling snow, until exhausted with fatigue and benumbed by the intense cold.

The annual meeting of the State Grange, P. of H., takes place at 3 P. M., January 5, 1875, in Williamsport. Four hundred granges of the State of Pennsylvania will be represented at that time. The biennial election of officers takes place at that meeting, and other business of importance will be transacted during the session. Arrangements have been made with nearly all the railroad companies for large reductions in fares. This will also furnish an excellent opportunity for Pennsylvania farmers to contribute effectively to help their distressed brethren in Kansas and Nebraska who have been smitten by the grasshopper plague.

There seems to be much distress prevailing among the laboring classes in Luzerne county, and other adjacent portions of the coal and iron regions. Nearly all the iron furnaces and foundries are either idle or working only on partial time, and this, together with the general depression of trade, having reduced the consumption of coal, there is very little doing at the collieries in this usually busy region. Thousands are in idleness without any means of obtaining work, and the distress is very great. The Mayor of Scranton writes to a contemporary that all the means of relief in that city are exhausted, and he fears, as winter advances, that the suffering will become extreme.

In 1802 one Michaux, a Frenchman, made a tour of Pennsylvania, and here is an incident of his trip: "We reached Bedford at nightfall, and took up our lodging at a tavern. The day of our arrival was a rejoicing day to the inhabitants of the country, who had assembled at this town to celebrate the repeal of the duty on the whisky distilleries. The taverns were filled with drunkards, who made a frightful uproar, and yielded to excesses so horrible as to be scarcely conceived. The rooms, the stairs, the yard, were covered with men dead drunk, and those that were still able to get their teeth separated, uttered only the accents of fury and rage. An inordinate desire for spirituous liquors is one of the characteristics of the inhabitants of the countries in the interior of the United States. I do not believe there are ten in a hundred who could have the resolution to deprive themselves of it for an instant, if they had it a hand. Cider they think too mild."

OHIO NEWS.

Zanesville owes $519,743 18.

A $50,000 hotel is being erected at Bellaire.

Mercer county has neither a railroad nor a pike.

Cincinnati now averages about one hundred deaths per week.

General Sherwood is to go into the newspaper business at Columbus.

The large rolling mill of Messrs. Brown, Bonnell & Co., at Youngstown, was stopped last week for an indefinite time.

James Levirer, of Marion county, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for life, for killing Frank Johnson last summer.

The first sheet of tin produced in the United States was manufactured at Wellsville, Ohio, by Chas. Marchand, in August, 1873.

Twenty-five hundred dollars is the sum awarded against an Elyria saloonist, to the wife of one of his victims, by a Lorain county jury.

A reward of one hundred dollars is offered for the detection of the person or persons who stole the body of Jacob Berg from its grave in the Massillon cemetery some ten nights ago.

Governor Allen, on behalf of Ohio, received a medal from Francis Joseph, of Austria, on Monday. The medal is given as a special token to the State for its large contributions of useful productions to the Vienna Exposition.

A young lady named Margaret Stoneburner, of Darby township, Pickaway county, being seized with typhoid fever last month, predicted the day of her death, and died four weeks subsequently on the day she had named. She insisted from the beginning that she would die on that day, and no physician could save her.

Cleveland claims the coming American prima donna. Her name is Nannie Louise Hart, her age twenty-one, her voice a genuine robust dramatic soprano. Miss Hart has studied for three years—one in Germany and two at Milan. She made her *debut* at Soresini, lately, and won a brilliant success as "Amelia" in the "Ballo in Maschera."

The season for killing deer in this State closed with November, October and November being the only months in which it is lawful to kill them. It is also unlawful to expose for sale any deer during the time when the killing is made unlawful and the exposure for sale at such time is by the law *prima facie* evidence that the killing was done within the State of Ohio.

Andrew Roy, State Inspector of Mines, filed his annual report with Governor Allen on Monday. The document is a voluminous paper of ninety-nine pages of foolscap, giving a detailed account of the condition of the mines throughout the State, summing up the resources of the mines and giving advice as to their ventilation and general management. During the year there were twenty deaths resulting from accidents in the mines, and eighty cases of total disability. He recommends the appointment of an Assistant Inspector, as the duties are too large for one man.

Look Out for Worthless Registered Bonds.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

NEW YORK, December 1, 1874.

Some time ago the United States Secret Service were informed that there were some United States Five-twenty bonds afloat, which were either counterfeits or else genuine stolen bonds altered to prevent detection. Benson's force of the Secret Service here, were immediately on the track, and finally arrested at Philadelphia, one George F. Hilt, *alias* Batchelder, late secretary of the defunct Safeguard Insurance Company, and found in his possession a plate for the manufacture of fifty cent United States fractional currency, and some $12,000 of Five-twenty bonds.

These bonds, instead of being counterfeit, are genuine registered bonds of the issue of March 3, 1863, and altered by erasing the names of the registered payees, as well as the numbers, and renumbered and other payees substituted, and these bonds were used as deposits for collaterals in the insurance company of which Hilt was secretary.

They were stolen at Braintree, Mass., on the 7th of July, 1871, and *caveat* entered in the Register's office of the United States Treasury at the time. The singularity in this case is that the bonds could have been used as collaterals without the Insurance Commissioner knowing their worthlessness, and it might be well for all holding Government bonds to make a rigid examination into the matter, since, even if registered, they may prove utterly worthless to the holder.

It is well to know that your bonds are not only registered, but you should also know that they have not been tampered with.

A. P. H.

A Legal Fight for $5,000,000 Worth of Pennsylvania Property.

[From the Caldwell (O.) Press.]

A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press about the McCune-Hogan or Hogland estate of $5,000,000 in Pennsylvania. The McCunes are a large and respectable connection living in this vicinity, and claim one undivided fourth—the Hogans the remainder. The thing is *bona fide*, and no canard, as some suppose. It seems the lands in question were sold for taxes in 1838, as is claimed, by the fraudulent connivance of the agent of McCune and the purchasers at tax-sale, the agent receiving a large slice for his treachery. This was only recently discovered. In the course of time the right of action was barred by the statute of limitations, and but for the discovery of the alleged fraud the McCunes and Hogans could not hope to recover their inheritance, McCune having died but fifteen years since, and Hogan or Hogland more recently, long after the twenty-one years had elapsed.

The occupants under the tax-title, McGee by name, are actively engaged in mining coal on the McCune estate, and as the deposit is fourteen feet in depth, and of incalculable value, they will make a strong fight in the courts before they will yield.

THE Parisians are threatened with a disaster less reparable than that of the overthrow of the Column Vendome, but resembling it in its nature. The Obelisk of Luxor, so long the central ornament of the Place de la Concorde, is beginning to crumble away. Various remedies have been employed to arrest this disastrous condition of things, but without effect, and the summit of the obelisk is gradually becoming reduced to powder. The other day a deputation of savants from the Academy visited the interesting invalid, and declared that in ten years from now the hieroglyphics of the upper part would be completely effaced.

MYSTERIOUS POISONING.

A Man and Wife Found in the Throes of Death at Carbondale—Death of the Wife—No Hopes of the Husband's Recovery.

[From the Scranton Republican, December 4.]

Yesterday morning the people of Carbondale were thrown into a state of intense excitement owing to the rumor that a whole family had been poisoned.

An investigation only proved that the rumor was too true. The unfortunate family consisted of a man named Ludwig and his wife and child. They were discovered by the neighbors lying in bed—husband and wife in a state of unconsciousness and the child crying at its mother's breast. Prompt measures were taken to restore them to life; physicians were sent for but in a short time after their coming Mrs. Ludwig died. The father was restored to a state of semi-consciousness, but he is not sufficiently restored to give an intelligent account of the mysterious affair. On a table by the bedside was found an empty bottle. Ludwig, when questioned yesterday, said that he and his wife drank something out of a bottle, and that they gave the little child some. When asked what it was they drank, he said he did not know; neither could he, or would he explain why it was they drank it. At last accounts Ludwig was in a very precarious condition and not expected to recover. The physicians say that the family has undoubtedly been poisoned, though in what manner still remains an impenetrable mystery.

The Financial Depression.

In the money article of the London *Times* of the 10th inst. we find the following significant remarks:

The condition of the money market is acknowledged on all hands to be more peculiar than has been known for many years, the *hesitation of investors* and the continued scarcity of bills being the subject of general remark. *The very large accumulation of money awaiting employment* is a feature in the exceptional state of affairs, the more difficult to deal with on account of the *scarcity of sound securities*. Had Egypt and Turkey, to select two instances only, been more careful of their credit and less eager to borrow, the position would have been materially different. As it is, it is impossible to obtain an accurate estimate of the amount of the latter issues still in the hands of the syndicates. Such a system of borrowing money as this tends obviously to cause instability as regards market prices and to raise doubts in the minds of investors as to the maintenance of even existing quotations. To shake so seriously the confidence of investors as a body is the most effectual way to reduce *bona fide* investment business to a *minimum*, and to cause a large accumulation of unemployed capital; and *there is no doubt that the present exceptional state of affairs is largely due to the distrust which for months past has been the direct outgrowth of* THE HASTE OF CONTRACTORS TO GET RICH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PUBLIC.

Just the same causes could be assigned to account, in a large measure, for the depression which exists in the money market at New York. There is a general lack of confidence in securities, caused by the fact that so many have lately proved rotten. And the large crop of unsound investments is very much due to the agency of a class whom the *Times* here designates "contractors." The general commercial activity of late years, the multitude of enterprises encouraged by new applications of steam power, and the large loans sought by nearly every government, have combined to create an immense demand for capital for permanent investment. This vast increase in the demand for loans has given a corresponding activity to a class of financial agents whom we will call loan contractors, but who generally designate themselves "bankers." These agents have become a distinct class in the money markets of Christendom, and have constituted a most important power in finance. In a certain sense they were a necessary agency for bringing together the borrowing and the lending classes; and had they conducted their operations with due regard to the interests of lenders there would have been little to complain of about the result of their services. In perhaps a considerable majority of cases they occupied at least a respectable standing as to character and credit. This, indeed, was a necessity to their business; for, in most instances, the loans were accepted much more upon the quasi indorsement of them by the contractors than from any true comprehension of the real merits of the security given. Very naturally, however, these agents have learnt to place a higher value upon the large profits of their negotiations than upon the reputation of their name and the interests of those whose investments they were able to influence. They have, therefore, not only too readily accepted negotiations of questionable loans submitted to them, but have gone so far as to offer inducements to the creation of new enterprises for the purpose of supplying themselves with business. In this way, large amounts of loans have been placed upon the money markets which should never have been presented to a lender; and yet lenders have swallowed them with avidity because while promising high rates of interest they were indorsed as good by "contractors" of high financial standing and who were presumed to value their business reputation above every other consideration.

Thus, the class primarily responsible for the present low condition of securities and for the prevailing lack of confidence in paper investments, are the loan contractors. Perhaps it may be said that the public should have known better than

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No. 137 Grant street, Pittsburgh, Pa. All medicines are prepared by the proprietor where nothing but the best of drugs are used. This enables us to cure the most difficult cases after all others have failed. Office hours from 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.; Sundays from 11 A. M. to 1 P. M.

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A Card to the Public.

A Short Postponement of the Fifth Gift Concert.

As Manager of the Gift Concerts given in Aid of the Public Library of Kentucky my position creates an important trust in behalf of the Public Library and the Ticket-holders of the Fifth Gift Concert. The Public Library of Kentucky and the Ticket-holders are jointly interested in the amount of the drawing. The larger the fund to be distributed in gifts the greater will be the gift awarded to each lucky ticket-holder and the more the amount realized by the Library. To have a full drawing is so manifestly to the interest of those interested that, rather than have a fractional drawing on the 30th inst., I deem it due to the trust confided to me by the ticket-holders and the Public Library of Kentucky, that a short postponement be made to enable me to dispose of the unsold tickets and have a full drawing. Though the very large amount now in bank would enable us to distribute handsome gifts, yet we should feel disappointed in this our last concert, should we be compelled to make a fractional drawing, however large.

We have received so very large a number of letters from all parts of the country from those most largely interested, urging a postponement if all the tickets be not sold by the 30th, that we feel strengthened in our sense of duty to the ticket-holders and the Public Library, to make the postponement. Under the circumstances, we have determined, in the interest of all parties, to postpone the concert and drawing to SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1875, at which time the drawing will positively take place, and, as a guarantee of good faith toward ticket-holders, we pledge ourselves to refund to any ticket-holder his money, upon presentation of his ticket, should the drawing fail to come off at the day now fixed. The past, we feel assured, will be sufficient guarantee to all interested that they will be fairly and honestly dealt with. The money paid for tickets is sacredly preserved against all contingencies until after the payment of the gifts, after which the expenses are to be reimbursed and the Public Library is to be paid its profits.

THOS. E. BRAMLETTE, AGENT AND MANAGER.

November 29, 1874.

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